# True North—Persevering in The Pursuit of Justice



A Civil & Human Rights Conference



"If only the fool would persist in his folly he would become wise."

William Blake

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# 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WHISTLEBLOWER SUMMIT & FILM FESTIVAL **SPONSORS 2019**

#### PRESENTING



#### HOST COMMITTEE













#### **FESTIVAL CIRCLE**







#### PREMIERE MEDIA





#### NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER DAY LUNCHEON



## PILLAR AWARDS RECEPTION









## OFFICAL HOTEL & HOSPITALITY





#### VIP MIXER / RECEPTION



#### AWARDS / SOLIDARITY DINNER



# Proclamation



#### WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

JULY 30, 2019

WHEREAS, National Whistleblower Day is to recognize the law protecting whistleblowers and the importance of whistleblowers to our nation's transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Whistleblower Summit is the largest gathering of whistleblowers and is being hosted at the Hart Senate Office Building; and



WHEREAS, whistleblowing is the lawful disclosure of information reasonably believed to evidence waste, fraud or abuse; and

WHEREAS, whistleblowers are often penalized for their attempt to help make our work environment a safe and secure place to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, this annual event provides an opportunity to discuss issues, concerns and how to change the perception of individuals who report suspicious activities in their workplace without being stigmatized:



NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2019 in Washington, DC as "WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY".





#### **Background**

Members from the Make it Safe Coalition<sup>1</sup> have arranged an assembly of whistleblowers in Washington, DC each year for an annual conference originally known as Washington Whistleblower's Week since 2007. Whistleblowers and their advocates from across the country will descend on Capitol Hill to convene this four-day event, which features Plenary Session, Workshops and Panel Discussions, Whistleblower Book Signing and Film Festival, Whistleblower Appreciation Day Luncheon, Awards Reception, Pillar Awards Presentations, and Whistleblower Solidarity Dinner. The theme for the summit this year is True North — Persevering In The Pursuit of Justice.

The host committee—ACORN 8, Federally Employed Women Legal Education Fund (FEW-LEF), Project Censored, Coalition for Change Inc. (C4C) and the Justice Integrity Project will co-host this year's Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival in Washington, DC. We believe that whistleblowers and social activists are essential to the Free Press and Free Society, which is foundational to American Democracy. We are a coalition of individual whistleblowers, grassroots activists, public interest advocates and policy makers. We provide a sense of community and mutual support for whistleblowers or civil and human rights activists.

The Whistleblower Summit recognizes that cinema is a powerful medium for highlighting civil and human rights violations across the globe. It seeks to shine a light on stories of courage and perseverance in the face of injustice, and to encourage individuals to stand together to achieve human rights for all. We are presenting films about whistleblowers, the First Amendment or that touch on one or several human rights issues that are connected to our areas of work, which includes freedom of expression, women's rights, discrimination, communal violence, human rights defenders, among other issues.

Over the past twelve years, members of the MISC have passed thirteen laws, including No FEAR and the WPEA, conducted congressional lobby days, provided CLE training, written Op-Eds, published magazines and books, hosted radio shows, provided mentoring and lawyer referrals, penned sign-on letters, submitted amicus briefs, written columns and law review articles, made television appearances, held protest rallies at the White House and on the National Mall. We've even "occupied" government agencies and hosted both national and regional conferences in:

Washington, DC (Capitol Hill)
New York, NY
Baltimore, MD (John Hopkins University)
Atlanta, GA (Woodruff Park)
Chicago, IL
Houston, TX (Rice University)
Los Angeles, CA
Little Rock, AR (Clinton Presidential Library)

It is an impressive list of accomplishments when you consider all the stigmatism and stress that individual whistleblowers face at the hands of the government and corporations. Together, the MISC community has achieved impressive results. The purpose of the Whistleblower Summit is to celebrate the collective achievements of whistleblowers and our advocates. As usual the MISC and the media are always invited and the Pacifica Radio Network will continue their support of the conference this year.

In closing, we are grateful for, and very proud of the organizational partners that made this event possible, and individual whistleblowers and supporters who cosponsored our conference. And we look forward to continued success and activism in the coming years.

Cordially,

Marcel Reid

Marcel Reid, Whistleblower Liaison Pacifica Radio Network Michael McCray, ACORN 8 / co-founder International Association of Whistleblowers

Michael McCray

The MISC is as assortment of various public interest/advocacy groups including the ACORN 8, the Government Accountability Project, the International Association of Whistleblowers, the American Federation of Government Employees, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Project On Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Coalition for Change, the No FEAR Coalition, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, Voices for Corporate Responsibility, and International Brotherhood of Teamsters. MISC members focus on significant areas of public concern and individual rights, such as the First Amendment, federal workforce, medical safety, national security, judicial reform, etc.

## **Mission Statement**

The original purpose of the Whistleblower Summit for Civil & Human Rights was multifaceted and many:

Highlight the special projects and accomplishments of the whistleblowers and NGOs in the Make It Safe Coalition.

Come together to defeat the isolation experienced by whistleblowers and create a sense community among individual whistleblowers and the NGOs that support our community.

Provide a meaningful mutual support network for whistleblowers and our advocates across the country and the globe.

Provide lobby training for the whistleblower community to support the passage of important legislation related to transparency, whistleblowing and the First Amendment.

Publicize the successful efforts of NGOs, whistleblowers and our advocates, and provide media training to individual whistleblowers to broaden our access to the media.

Place whistleblowing in its proper historical context, and redefine whistleblowers as beneficial and integral to democratic society and champions of the Constitution and First Amendment.

Change the public perception of the term "whistleblower" from being a pejorative to being patriotic "persons of conscience."

Finally, to connect Whistleblowers and First Amendment advocates to the broader civil rights and global human rights movements.

To all of the above, we have added to increase awareness and garner broad support for whistleblowers from the general public by highlighting their contributions to popular culture through books, television and film.

## Pillar Award for Human Rights

"Person's of Conscience"

As whistleblowers, we are a community outspoken activists and advocates who frequently speak truth to power. We are trans-partisan; and view whistle-blowing not in terms of Left verses Right—but instead as Right versus Wrong. The Pillar Award is a way for our community to give credit and recognition to the individuals and institutions that form the foundation that supports our community, in particular First Amendment, Fourth Amendment and Fifth Amendment protections.

We traditionally present Pillar Awards to courageous lawmakers who have sponsored or co-sponsored important legislation, or who have supported our community in other tangible ways. Since it takes Democrats and Republicans to actually pass legislation into law we often recognize the sponsors and co-sponsors of important legislation from both sides of the isle. Additionally, we have recently given Pillar Awards to other exemplary individuals and organizations who support Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and Human Rights, including Media Organizations, Journalists and Community Activists.

## Martha Mitchell & Frank Wills Award

"Unsung Heroes"

We are also proud to announce the "Martha Mitchell & Frank Wills" Award for Whistleblowers and Unsung Heroes. This award is given to whistleblowers and others who suffer great tragedy and setbacks for speaking truth to power or otherwise doing the right thing. Frank Wills was the security guard who reported the break in at the Watergate Hotel and Martha Mitchell was the wife of John Mitchell, United States Attorney General under President Richard Nixon who kept the Watergate story alive due to her frequent phone calls to reporters and colorful comments on the state of the nation, until it was eventually picked up by the Washington Post and several high-profile magazines.

Their courage eventually brought down the Presidency of Richard Millhouse Nixon. Tragically, everyone benefited from the Watergate story, including the criminals—except the Whistleblowers, i.e., Frank Wills suffered retaliation and died destitute, while Martha Mitchell who was divorced, committed to a mental health institution and died of multiple myeloma three years later. This award honors his memory and highlights the tension between how whistleblowers are used regularly by media outlets but are then readily discarded when the news cycle ends.

## **Grace Lee Boggs Award**

"Civic Activism"

We are also proud to award the "Grace Lee Boggs" for civic activism. Grace Lee was an American author, social activist, philosopher, and feminist. A prominent activist her entire adult life, Grace Lee was born in Rhode Island in 1915, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She studied at Barnard College and Bryn Mawr, receiving her Ph.D. in 1940. Her studies in philosophy and the writings of Marx, Hegel, and Margaret Mead led not to a life in academia, but rather to a lifetime of social activism. Lee's activism began in Chicago, where she joined the movement for tenants' rights, and then the Workers Party, a splinter group of the Socialist Workers Party. In these associations, as well as in her involvement with the 1941 March on Washington, Lee focused on marginalized groups such as women and people of color.

In 1953, Lee married black auto-worker and activist James Boggs and moved to Detroit, where she remains an activist today, writing columns for the Michigan Citizen. James died in 1993. She believes that it is by working together in small groups that positive social change can happen, not in large revolutions where one group of power simply changes position with another. The "Grace Lee Boggs" award honors civic activism and grassroots engagement.

## **Gladys Louise Smith Award**

# Mary Pickford

Gladys Louise Smith (April 8, 1892 – May 29, 1979), known professionally as Mary Pickford, was a Canadian-born American film actress and producer. With a career spanning fifty years, she was one of the original 36 founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who present the yearly "Oscar" award ceremony. In her prime Pickford was known as "America's Sweetheart" and the "girl with the curls". She was one of the Canadian pioneers in early Hollywood and a significant figure in the development of film acting. Pickford was one of the earliest stars to be billed under her own name, and was one of the most popular actresses of the 1910s and 1920s, earning the nickname "Queen of the Movies". She is credited as having defined the *ingénue* archetype in cinema. She was awarded the second ever Academy Award for Best Actress for her first sound-film role in *Coquette* (1929) and also received an honorary Academy Award in 1976.

She was a co-founder of both the Pickford–Fairbanks Studio (along with Douglas Fairbanks) and, later, the United Artists film studio. United Artists Corporation (UA), currently doing business as United Artists Digital Studios, is an American film and television entertainment studio. Founded in 1919 by D. W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks, the studio was premised on allowing actors to control their own interests, rather than being dependent upon commercial studios. In consideration of her contributions to American cinema, the American Film Institute ranked Pickford as 24th in its 1999 list of greatest female stars of classic Hollywood Cinema.

# Chronology of Whistleblower Gatherings Themes and Conference Hosts

## Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival – (ACORN 8)

2019: "True North - Persevering In The Pursuit For Justice"

Whistleblower Summit for Civil & Human Rights – (ACORN 8)

2018: "Whistlebloweing Works!"

2017: "Whistleblowers Protect Freedom & Democracy"

2016: "1778 – Whistleblowers and the First Amendment"

2015: "Black Lives Matter – This Is The Movement"

2014: "... Is It Right?"

2013: "Whistleblowing Affects Everyone"

2012: "WoW - Obama's War On Whistleblowers & Women"

2011: International Whistleblower Assembly – (IAW)

2010: Washington Whistleblowers Week – (GAP)

2009: Washington Whistleblowers Week – (GAP)

2008: Washington Whistleblowers Week – (No FEAR)

2007: Whistleblowers Week in Washington – (MISC)

# 2019 Human Rights Award Honorees

#### **United States Senate**

Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) Free Speech Advocate

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)
Voting Rights Champion

#### **U.S. House of Representatives**

Representative Justin Amash (R-MI)
Rule of Law & Person of Conscience

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Minority Financial Institutions Champion

## **State House Assembly**

Delegate Mark Sickles (VA-43) The Weseley Charles Lipicky Act Child Safety Legislation

### **Community Activisim**

John Singleton\* Gladys Louise Smith Award

Dick Greggory\*
Grace Lee Boggs Award

Ralph Nader Life Time Achievement

Thomas Ruffin Grace Lee Boggs Award

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<sup>\*</sup> Posthumous Awardee

#### **Journalism**

Jamal Khashoggi – The Washington Post Inordinate Sacrifice

April Ryan – American Urban Radio, CNN Unflinching Courage

#### **Whistleblowers**

Tricia Newbold – White House Whistleblower
Frank Wills Award

Dr. Peter Breggin – Psychology Whistleblower Martha Mitchell Award

#### **Films & Motion Pictures**

Impact Award
Deceptive Diplomacy

Best Feature The Guardians

Best Documentary The Kids We Lose

> Best Short Tank Man

Best Whistleblower Portrayal Official Secrets

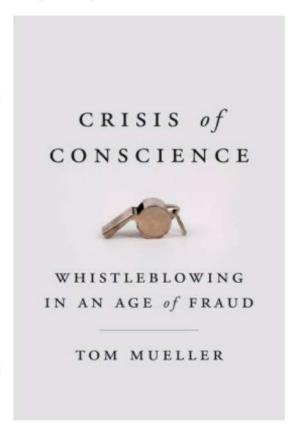
> Audience Choice TBD

#### Whistleblower Summit Official Book Selection: Crisis of Conscience

A David-and-Goliath story for our times: the riveting account of heroes fighting a rising tide of wrongdoing by the powerful, is also showing us the path forward.

We live in a period of sweeping corruption — and a golden age of whistleblowing. Over the past few decades, principled insiders who exposed wrongdoing have gained unprecedented legal and social stature, emerging as the government's best weapon against corporate misconduct—and the citizenry's best defense against government gone bad. Whistleblowers force us to confront fundamental questions concerning the balance between free speech and state secrecy, as well as the balance between individual morality and corporate power.

In Crisis of Conscience, Tom Mueller traces the rise of whistleblowing through a series of riveting cases drawn from the worlds of healthcare, other industry, Wall Street, and Washington. Drawing on in-depth interviews with more than two hundred whistleblowers and the trailblazing lawyers who arm them for battle—along with politicians, intelligence analysts, government watchdogs, cognitive scientists, and other experts—Mueller anatomizes "what" inspires some to speak out while the rest of us become complicit in our silence. Whistleblowers, we come to see, are the freethinking, outspoken citizens for whom our republic was conceived. And they are the models we must emulate if our democracy is to survive.



Crisis of Conscience draws on seven years of interviews with over 200 whistleblowers, together with several hundred other experts: whistleblower attorneys who arm their clients for battle, prosecutors, government and private investigators, members of Congress and their staffs, scholars, consultants, bankers, soldiers, intelligence officials, federal judges and other experts. Using a series of riveting cases drawn from the worlds of Big Pharma and health care, the military, finance, and government, the book anatomizes what inspires some to speak out while the rest of us avert our eyes, and shows that whistleblowers are the freethinking citizens by and for whom our republic was conceived – the Founders protected whistleblowers and often behaved like them, while Abraham Lincoln championed one of America's most vital whistleblower laws. Ultimately, Crisis of Conscience stresses whistleblowing as an essential act of democracy. We must all emulate whistleblowers, if our democracy is to survive.

# Schedule of Events

Sunday July 28, 2019
Pro Summit Potrost / Posontion
Pre-Summit Retreat / Reception Sponsored by the New York 7 and Whistleblower Productions
Morrison– Clark Historic Inn & Restaurant 1011 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
Join journalists, whistleblowers and advocates for both groups for an informal get-together preceding the annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival. All filmmakers as well as all summit attendees are invited. Light hors d'oeuvre are provided. There is no cost to attend, and drinks (including non-alcoholic) and food are buy your own.

# Schedule of Events

	Monday July 29, 2017
10:00—11:00	Set Up, Registration & Check-In
	The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002
12:00—12:50	Opening Plenary / Welcome Session
	Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002  Welcome and introduction of the occasion, followed by a historic presentation of a proclamation honoring / recognizing National Whistleblower Appreciation Day among the Whistleblower Summit community by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington DC.  Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison Michael McCray, ACORN 8 Andrew Kreig, Justice Integrity Project (JIP) Matthew Fogg, Federally Employed Women Legal And Education Fund (FEW-LEF) Tanya Ward Jordan, Coalition for Change (C4C) Tom Devine, Government Accountability Project (GAP)
1:00—1:50	Working With The Office Of Special Counsel
	Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002  Panel Participants:  Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project Ellen Chubin Epstein, Principal Deputy Special Counsel Siobhan Bradley, Disclosure Unit Jane Juliano, Alternative Disputes Resolution Unit

#### Description:

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is the primary source of justice for federal whistleblowers, including all who cannot afford due process litigation. It also screens and orders investigations of whistleblowing disclosures when it believes there is a substantial likelihood the employee is correct. However, this tiny agency realistically cannot fight and win battles on behalf of all whose rights have been violated. The Office has well-established processes counsel to maximize its impact, such as an emphasis on settlement and an active Alternative Disputes resolution (ADR) unit.

In this panel, OSC representatives will offer guidance for the best working relationships with the agency, from realistic expectations, how their units operate, and how whistleblowers can most effectively work with the Office. The goal for this workshop is to help whistle-blowers learn the realistic expectations when seeking help from the OSC, and how most effectively to obtain it. By better understanding the OSC's procedures, limitations and the full range of assistance available, whistleblowers can reduce frustration and maximize the support they receive.

# 2:00—2:50 Economic Apartheid: Blackballing Minority Financial Institutions

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Mathew Fogg, Retired U.S. Chief Deputy Marshal Michael McCray, Advisor - Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union Victor Russell, Chairman - Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union Brian Gately, Former Director of Technical Assistance - National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions

#### Description:

The modern civil rights movement is the struggle for Economic Justice. This panel will explore the provocative question — "Are federal regulators unfairly targeting minority owned banks and credit unions for liquidation?" Economic justice (not just social justice) is the cornerstone of the modern civil rights movement. True equality requires that African-Americans build and control their own financial institutions in order to compete in America's capatilistic society. This includes banks, thrifts, finance companies and credit unions.

## 3:00-3:50 In Defense of the Family

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Marti Oakley, Host, TS Radio Network Marcia Southwick, Boomers Against Elder Abuse Dr. Zena Crenshaw-Logal, Executive Director, NJCDLP

#### Description:

The panel will focus on the disparities in the judicial system, specifically the probate tribunals, which can declare an elderly individual civilly dead in order to exploit the estate. Once captured in this system the elderly are most times isolated, medicated and then conveniently die, just as their estates are tapped out. Cremation is the standard for disposing of the body (evidence) before the family can investigate the actual cause of death. With little to no attention paid to civil or human rights, much less to Constitutional protections, thousands of elderly individuals are targeted by professional predators each year.

# 4:00—4:50 Is There a Book in your Story, a Hit in your Hurt?

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Rob Kall, Publisher, OpEdNews.com, Author of The Bottom-up Revolution Andrew Kreig, Executive Director, Justice Integrity Project Robert Gettlin, co-author "Silent Coup," and DC-based journalist Roger Charles, Investigative Reporter

#### Description:

Experts on cutting edge issues describe from first-hand experience, practical pointers on creating a successful book from whistleblowing experience. One panelist's new book constitutes a courageous critique of important parts of standard narratives of Watergate held dear by major newspapers especially, and is a particular challenge to the Washington Post and its allies. The panelists will deliver candid commentaries on benefits, risks and possible harm to both author and the public in making a decision to take a story public through book or film. This panel will provide first hand, practical advice to would-be authors, as well as an understanding of the authors' dramatic, history-making whistleblowing.

6:00—7:30	Film Screening
	Busboys & Poet's (14 <sup>th</sup> and V St.) 2021 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009
	In-house film screening of:
	— Fear No Gumbo —
7:30—8:30	WIF – Filmmakers Panel
8:30—10:00	Film Screening
	Busboys & Poet's (14 <sup>th</sup> and V St.) 2021 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009
	In-house film screening of:
	— The Kids We Lose —

# Schedule of Events

	Tuesday July 30, 2019
	National Whistleblower Appreciation Day Luncheon Sponsored by the National Whistleblower Center
	—Registration Required—
11:00—1:30	Dirksen Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SD-106 Washington, DC 20002
	In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the National Whistleblower Center will sponsor a Luncheon in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.
	"That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any person in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."
	— Resolution of the U.S. Continental Congress unanimously passed on the 30 <sup>th</sup> day of July, 1778
	The National Whistleblower Day Luncheon is an annual non-partisan event that will commemorate the 241st anniversary of America's first whistleblower law and recognize the great contributions of whistleblowers to democracy both in the United States and abroad. The event will feature speakers including agency heads, lawmakers, whistleblowers, and whistleblower advocates. This is an invitation-only event hosted by the National Whistleblower Center.  Separate registration is required. For more information, please contact info@whistleblowers.org.
2:00—2:50	Working More Effectively With Congress
	The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panelists:

Shanna Devine, Worker Health and Safety Advocate, Public Citizen's Congress Watch Division (Moderator)

Krista Boyd, General Counsel, House Oversight and Reform Committee (Majority)

David Berick, Chief Investigator, Senate Finance Committee (Minority) Brian Downey, Senior Investigator, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Majority) (INVITED)

#### Description:

The goal for this workshop is analogous to that of the OSC panel – grounding in realistic expectations, tactics for best obtaining support, and success stories that illustrate the potential of whistleblower solidarity. The workshop will also address efforts in upcoming legislative campaigns to strengthen the remaining weak links of the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). This Congress is crucial to our campaign to give the WPA real teeth so that it becomes a credible free speech shield.

Panelists will come from staff who are the front lines of working relationships with whistleblowers. Invited panelists will include representatives from the House and Senate Whistleblower Caucuses, as well as from the minority and majority staffs of the congressional committees that oversee the WPA – Senate Homeland Security Committee and House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Additional panelists may include whistleblower advocates and/or whistleblowers with experience working with Congress.

# 3:00—3:50 Facing the "No FEAR" Factor

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Tanya Ward Jordan, Founder, Coalition For Change Paulette Taylor, Coalition For Change Joyce E. Megginson, Coalition For Change

#### Description:

To best protect the public, who rely on essential government services related to such areas as health, housing, education, economy and the security of our nation, civil servants must be free to challenge unequal employment practices in the federal workplace. This panel examines the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR) of 2002 and subsequent amendments that ultimately serve to ensure our nations' safety and well-being.

# 4:00—4:50 Caught Between Conscience and Career: Expose abuse without exposing your identity

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Tim Mak, Political Reporter, National Public Radio
Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project
Nick Schwellenbach, Director of Investigations, Project on
Government Oversight
Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director, Public Employees for
Environmental Responsibility

#### Description:

Is it possible to fight wrongdoing from within without sacrificing your career? That's why Government Accountability Project, Project On Government Oversight, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility published a free survival guide to help and empower conscientious government employees when they encounter wrongdoing in the workplace, covers:

- Why whistleblowing is important and professionally dangerous
- How to blow the whistle anonymously
- How best to protect your identity in the digital age
- How to navigate the bureaucracy of making an official disclosure
- How to work with the press
- The legal protections against retaliation and the limits of these protections

# 5:00—6:30 Awards Reception: Pillar Award Presentation

Sponsored by the Government Accountability Project, Public Citizen and Project on Government Oversight

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Pillar Award Presentation

In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the Government Accountability Project will host an Awards Reception in the courtyard of the Stewart Mott House. The Pillar Award presentation is an annual ceremony celebrating notable First Amendment, Civil Rights and Human Rights champions.

	Presentation by Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison  Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)  Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)  Representative Justin Amash (R-MI)  Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)  Delegate Mark Sickles (VA-43)
7:00—9:00	Film Screenings  Landmark E Street Cinema 555 11th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004
	In-house film screening of:  — Official Secrets —
9:00—11:00	Landmark E Street Cinema 555 11th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004 In-house film screening of:
	— The Great Hack —

# Schedule of Events

	Wednesday July 31, 2019
	Do No Harm – Whistleblowing In Medicine
10:00—10:50	The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002
	Panel Participants:
	Deirdre Gilbert, National Director, National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association Chip Wagar, Attorney At Law L. Bradley Swartz, Attorney At Law Constance Jones, Founder, CRJ Healthcare Credentials and Consulting Ajshay James, Principal, HARPRIDGE, Inc.,
	Description:
	In the real world, how does whistleblowing happen in medicine? This panel will discuss the various forms whistleblowing takes on in the medical field, the ethical issues arising from it, the protections – or lack of them – for whistleblowers and the consequences that can result from it. Legal protections for whistleblowers in private employment –hospitals, for example – are extremely limited or non-existent in most states. Furthermore, acts of medical malpractice, professional and institutional negligence are often shrouded in secrecy, protected by law from disclosure.
	Retaliation against doctors, nurses or other hospital employees via termination of employment is an ever-present sanction against reporting unsafe providers or procedures. In 2014, a retired physician Dr. Same Foote, disclosed at the Phoenix Veteran's Administration facility, a 'cook-the-books' wait-times bonus scandal. Though the scandal was first exposed at the Phoenix facility, it became national news. It is quite telling that, despite enactment of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 allegedly protecting federal employees who blow the whistle, Dr. Same Foote felt intimidated enough to wait until he was retired to do so.

#### 11:00—11:50

# Surviving Whistleblowing – Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles of Whistleblowing in the Federal Government

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Rory Riley Topping, Attorney At Law Jason Piccolo, Department of Homeland Security Whistleblower Mary Ellen Belding, Principal, Structural Remediation Services, Inc. Jay DeNofrio, VA Whistleblower and Advocate Scott Davis, Veterans Advocate

#### Description:

The panel will explore common tactics or the retaliation "playbook" used against whistleblowers reporting wrongdoing in the federal government and share successful tips and strategies for reporting to oversight authorities and the media. The panel will also cover strategies for surviving retaliation and keeping your job after making a disclosure. The panel will review the difficulty the federal government and courts have had in defining the scope of what constitutes whistleblower retaliation, hostile work environment, and the lack of presidential decisions under the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012.

The panel will also cover topics including whistleblower litigation in the Federal Circuit; the current lack of quorum, the 2,000 case backlog at the MSPB; and the need to reform the Whistleblower Protection Act to allow for a direct avenue to Federal Courts for federal whistleblowers. The panel will give opinions of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, as well as share other federal agency efforts to hold supervisors and senior executives accountable, internally, and protect whistleblowers. The panel will share their experiences as federal whistleblowers and explore a broad range of challenges faced by federal employees and federal contractors when making protected whistleblower disclosures.

# 12:00—12:50 Dying for Dialysis?

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Arlene Mullin, Dialysis Advocate Gregory Coleman, Dialysis Patient / Whistleblower Dr. David Moskowitz, Founder, GenoMed, Inc. Eduard Tsyrulnykov, MD,

#### Description:

Dialysis patients don't have the luxury of just coping with the illness itself, because of the way that the Dialysis Industry is structured and how it operates in conjunction with the federal government. Dialysis advocates allege there is no oversight, and no control. Dialysis is the only fully funded medical program in the US, resulting in thousands of potentially unnecessary deaths each year as patients are subjected to arguably substandard treatment. Dialysis patients are involuntarily ejected from privately owned clinics and must then resort to ER treatment, by the same nephrologist whose clinic ejected them. Worth far more in the ER than in clinic setting, Dialysis patients can be worth up to \$1 Million annually.

## 1:00—1:50 The Resilient Advocate – Elements, Ethics and End Results

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

#### Panel Participants:

Jacqueline Garrick, Founder, Whistleblowers of America Maureen Elias, Deputy Director, Veterans Health Council of Vietnam Veterans

Richard Hill, MD, Retired Primary Care Physician Irene Parker, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Ms. Heidi Weber, Associate Producer, Whistleblower on CBS

#### Description:

There is no denying that whistleblowers face societal stigmas and negative responses for their disclosures. The term whistleblower is all too often painted as "rat, snitch, or tattletale" including when conducting Microsoft Office synonym searches. These negative connotations have a psychological impact on ethical people who faced difficult decisions and took the high road to do the right thing. Only rarely do these people receive media recognition as heroes, such as in the movie portrayals of Serpico, Silkwood or Brockovich. Most whistleblowers face years and years of retaliation, harassment and discrimination. They are subjected to hostile work environments and workplace trauma. If they are not marginalized, devalued, shunned or facing mobbing, gas-lighting or violence, they are harmed in other ways. They are at constant risk of losing financial stability, social status, family security. Their physical and emotional health is impacted as a result.

As they move through and beyond the whistle blowing process, they must learn how to define their "new normal" and experience posttraumatic growth that comes from surviving hardships and rebuilding their sense of self and purpose. The key ingredient to being able to experience this growth comes from being able to build, maintain and sustain resilience. Resilience is the state of mind, body, and spirit that allows a person to overcome adversity and experience growth. Therefore, the resiliency skills needed to overcome whistleblower retaliation, discrimination or harassment in the workplace is an important discussion. Panelists will share information on resilient skill building and examples of how those skills have helped them to cope with stressful situations. The panel will focus on some of the concepts surrounding resilience, such as mindfulness, meditation, gratitude and forgiveness (of self and others).

# Schedule of Events

	Wednesday July 31, 2019
10:30—11:00	Film Screening
	Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002
	In-house film screening of:
	– In Perspective – – With My Own Two Hands – – Tank Man –
11:00—12:00	Film Screening
	Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002
	In-house film screening of:
	— WHISTLEBLOWER —
12:00—12:50	Media Training: How to tell your story in the most concise, powerful manner while protecting your rights
	Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002
	Panel Participants:
	Kathy Cole, Founder, Whistleblower Productions Frank Vetro, Author, Public Speaker and Radio Host Mary Ellen Belding, Principal, Structural Remediation Services, Inc. Dee Ann Divis, Society of Professional Journalists
	1

#### Description:

A whistleblower's story is often drawn out for many years, very convoluted, and comprised of many layers and moving parts. Compounding the problem is that whistleblowers often suffer from psychological damage that makes it even harder to articulate the tragic tale because they have been silenced, bullied, left unemployed, forced into bankruptcy or suffered other adverse actions at the hands of the powers that be.

This panel will focus on how to present your story, protect yourself, and avoid the pitfalls, whether you are telling your neighbor, employer, the media, a filmmaker, and/or the legal system. Whistleblowers need to get their stories packaged for proper submission to law enforcement, lawyers or their families, which is often dragged into this NIGHTMARE. Family members are often not aware of the issues and what is at stake for them when their family member blew the whistle.

"This is an important issue that almost all whistleblowers struggle with. When I interview people on my show they never articulate their story in a clear manner. I always had to clean it up. Whistleblowers are used as pawns in the corruption chess match, but a well-prepared pawn can put a king in check..." This panel is highlighted with a viewing of our new and revised documentary.

# 1:00—2:50 Film Screening

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

In-house film screening of:

— The Guardians —

# 3:00—3:50 Fighting Guardianship / Probate Abuse: Are the Alleged Violations Real or Imagined?

Hart Senate Office Building Room SH-902 Washington, DC

#### Panel Participants:

Billie Mintz, Documentary Filmmaker Terry Williams, Social Scientist and Consultant Rudolph "Rudy" Acree, Jr., Attorney At Law Wayne McElrath, Former Director of Investigations, Government Accountability Office

#### Description:

This panel explores the broader policy themes depicted in *The Guardians* Documentary, an award-winning, feature-length film exposing a decades-long criminal operation targeting the elderly, the disabled, their estates and families in Nevada. The film posits the primary, illegal objective aims to convert assets constituting generational and legacy wealth to liquid and investment capital serving as perpetrators' chief source for highly questionable and fraudulent billing schemes. The panel explores the realities of the schemes depicted, extensions into Probate Court where decedents' estates and survivors are targeted in much the same way and the maneuvering between the two courts in ways that will astound even the most seasoned detectives. The illegal objective is merely to intercept and liquidate all targeted assets, essentially billing targets and families for crimes committed against them.

#### 6:30-8:00

## Mixer for Whistleblower & Journalists

Sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists

—Registration Required—

The National Press Club 529 14th St. NW, 13th floor Washington, DC 20045

Join journalists, whistleblowers and advocates for both groups for an informal get-together during the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival, sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, DC Pro Chapter. All Society of Professional Journalists members, as well as all Whistleblower Summit attendees, are invited. There is no cost to attend. Food and drinks (including non-alcoholic beverages) are buy your own. We will gather on the top floor of the National Press Club in the Press Club building. After introducing ourselves, we will receive a special tour of the National Press Club by longtime Club and SPJ member Kathryn Foxhall. After the tour, we will return to the McClendon Room and discuss whistleblowers and public information officers. Foxhall, a science journalist and SPJ DC board member, has a particular expertise in PIO transparency issues as they apply to journalists. She will be joined by Dana Gold, Senior Counsel and Director of Education for the Government Accountability Project. You must register in advance for the July 31, 2019 event.

# Schedule of Events

	Thursday August 1, 2019
11:00—12:00	Film Screening
	Library of Congress James Madison Building LM-222 (Second Floor) 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20540  In-house film screening of:  - ViZA Bordered Hoan Alone Lost Treasure -
12:00—1:30	Film Screening
	Library of Congress James Madison Building LM-222 (Second Floor) 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20540
	In-house film screening of:
	– The Unforgivable Truth –
1:30—2:30	BIG: Blacks In Government Panel
	Library of Congress James Madison Building LM-222 (Second Floor) 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20540
2:30—3:00	Film Screening
	Library of Congress James Madison Building LM-222 (Second Floor) 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20540

	In-house film screening of:  - Voice For The Voiceless -
3:00—4:00	Film Screening
3.00—4.00	Timi Screening
	Library of Congress Congressional Research Services (CRS) Room CWC LM-222 (Second Floor) 101 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20540
	In-house film screening of:
	- Deceptive Diplomacy -
6:00—9:00	Film Awards & Solidarity Dinner
	Hosted by the Justice & Integrity Project
	—Invitation Only—
	The National Press Club
	529 14th St. NW, 13th floor Washington, DC 20045
	rrashingrent, Be 20040
	In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the Justice Integrity Project will host the Whistleblower Solidarity Dinner at the National Press Club. This semi-formal dinner is the capstone event of the conference to promote solidarity within the public interest community. There is no cost to attend. Food and drinks (including non-alcoholic beverages) are buy your own. Presentation by Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison.
	Films & Motion Pictures:
	Impact Award
	Best Feature Best Documentary
	Best Short
	D 11441: 11 1 1 D 1 1
	Best Whistleblower Portrayal  Audience Choice

#### **OPENING NIGHT**

#### **BEST FEATURE (FINALIST)**



#### **FEAR NO GUMBO**

Within the documentary film "Fear No Gumbo" (2016), Kimberly Rivers-Roberts follows up her award winning documentary film "Trouble the Waters" (2008) with candid observations of developments within the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana, eleven years after the combined devastations of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in 2005. The movie starts with interviews of community residents before the storm and continues through the aftermath of the devastating storm. The film goes on to depict the neglect and exploitation of the community following the recovery efforts, and tackles the culture of corruption in Louisiana politics. The film is a gritty depiction of the community utilizing a combination of home video and HD cinematography that forces the realization that she was there.

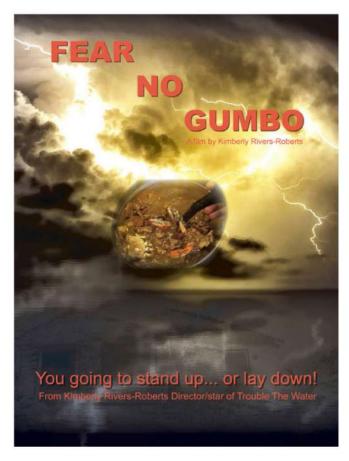
Too often, receiving social justice in the United States requires the ability to defend one's rights with strong legal representation and significant financial resources. Outsiders visit the Lower Ninth Ward and employ myriad tactics to extract the little riches its citizens possess because they are too powerless and too poor to protect their interests. Simultaneously, outside help is undermined by the shear strength of centuries of greed and oppression for which the City of New Orleans is infamous.

Deprivation of social justice is often a slippery slope leading to loss of civil and human rights. The Lower Ninth Ward is routinely denied the self-determination promised by participation in the political processes of government. The City of New Orleans routinely makes decisions adversely affecting the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood, without regard to the will of its citizens. Lower Ninth Ward citizens have been among the educationally underserved for generations, which is a significant causal factor of

employment marginalization and economic exploitation. Lacking political power, education, and wealth, citizens of the Lower Ninth Ward endure disproportionate risks of losing their freedom to incarceration.

The filming techniques utilized by Rivers-Roberts are as blunt as her journalism approach - an "in-your-face," confrontational method. The result is her reality. As she documents observations within the Lower Ninth Ward, Rivers-Roberts, succinctly synthesizes the plight of its citizens. The film structure feels a bit stream-of-conscious and discombobulating at times, and the duration is excessively extended due to inclusion of lengthy personal content. However, the personal content within "Fear No Gumbo" emphasizes the humanity of Rivers-Roberts and other Lower Ninth Ward residents facing a reality that has been ignored for far too long.

Rivers-Roberts effectively characterizes herself as a strong thread within the diverse fabric that is the Black American community. She is both authentic and genuine. She has the big heart and big personality that often accompanies big dreams. Rivers-Roberts loves hard and fights hard consistent with her hard-knock life experiences. Reborn to intrinsic power and self-determined opportunity from adversity depicted within "Trouble the Waters", Rivers-Roberts is confident in her beautiful identity, essential purpose, and brilliant capability as she courageously sacrifices her soul in a crusade to save her heart, which is her community. It is evident that, while Rivers-Roberts is willing to die in defense of what she loves, she will not succumb to that death without rendering her best fight. Kimberly Rivers-Roberts is a whistleblower.



This is a powerful film that chronicles an outspoken community activist and Katrina survivor from New Orleans' lower 9th Ward—9th Hell. More importantly, the film also explores the conflict between whistleblowers and journalists over the exploitation and/or outright theft of their life stories and artistic creativity. The film covers most (if not all) of the central themes from the Summit -- whistleblowers, press freedoms (exploitation), community activism, human rights and social justice. The film is raw, gritty and authentic. The language may be a little too real (coarse) for some audiences. The film "Fear No Gumbo" satisfies Summit goals by highlighting advocacy and accurately portraying whistleblowers. Also, it is consistent with social justice, civil and human rights themes.

# **BEST DOCUMENTARY**



# THE KIDS WE LOSE

"The Kids We Lose" (2018) documentary film depicts the stories of several minor children engaged in various educational levels in the United States and the childhood education stories of two adults whom are no longer engaged in the educational processes. The students' families, educators, healthcare providers, and judicial system members are grappling with the question of how to equitably serve students with psychological disorders and illnesses that have acute behavioral symptoms which disrupt the order and safety of the educational environment, thereby requiring routine interventions by law enforcement and courts that constitute the school pipeline-to- prison pathway.



This film conveys experiences, observations, and perspectives from the aforementioned front-line stakeholders in their own words. From all accounts, it is discernible that disadvantaged children are being perceived and punished as willful disciplinary problems instead of being protected as children with disabilities that include educational and other impairments. Very often children with acute behavioral symptoms are abused in every possible way by underfunded public systems that are ill-equipped to manage their innate inabilities to conform to societal expectations. When all other systems fail, the correctional system stands at the end of the long line, ready to fail these children yet again. Such is the circumstance of the two adults having experienced educational processes for claiming to manage their disabilities along the pathway of the school-to-prison pipeline.

The end result of inadequate school policies and procedures, along with the alliance between schools and the justice system to enforce school regulations no matter what, is the creation of a class of disabled citizens whom are alienated, stigmatized (even in their own perception), and marginalized seemingly beyond repair. Every aspect of this compelling film has been executed perfectly. The subject-matter is presented with the care and clarity warranted. The film "The Kids We Lose" satisfies Summit goals by highlighting advocacy and is consistent with Summit themes of social justice and human rights.

## CENTERPIECE: NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWERS DAY SCREENINGS



# **OFFICAL SECRETS**

She risked everything to stop an unjust war. Her government called her a traitor. Based on world-shaking true events, Official Secrets tells the gripping story of Katharine Gun (Keira Knightley), a British intelligence specialist whose job involves routine handling of classified information. One day in 2003, in the lead up to the Iraq War, Gun receives a memo from the NSA with a shocking directive: the United States is enlisting Britain's help in collecting compromising information on United Nations Security Council members in order to blackmail them into voting in favor of an invasion of Iraq. Unable to stand by and watch the world be rushed into an illegal war, Gun makes the gut-wrenching decision to defy her government and leak the memo to the press. So begins an explosive chain of events that will ignite an international firestorm, expose a vast political conspiracy, and put Gun and her family directly in harm's way.



# THE GREAT HACK



Data has surpassed oil as the world's most valuable asset. It's being weaponized to wage cultural and political warfare. People everywhere are in a battle for control of our most intimate personal details. THE GREAT HACK uncovers the dark world of data exploitation with astounding access to the personal journeys of key players on different sides of the explosive Cambridge Analytica/Facebook data scandal. Academy-Award nominees Amer and Noujaim (The Square, Control Room, Startup.com) continue their tradition of exploring the seismic ripples of social media with this riveting, complex film. THE GREAT HACK forces us to question the origin of the information we consume daily. What do we give up when we tap that phone or keyboard and share ourselves in the digital age? THE GREAT HACK premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

## DAY FOUR

### OFFICAL SELECTION

# INPERSPECTIVE



A FILM BY ARSHIA ZEINALI

# IN PERSPECTIVE

'In Perspective' is indeed a quality short film having no dialogue whatsoever and an impressive soundtrack. The lead character has apparently murdered a man, transported the body by car and decided to bury it in the woods. Having dug half of a grave where the feet and head remain visible, a smoke break occurs and a passerby stumbles upon the scene. At that moment, the murderer makes a determination to silence the witness and a chase ensues. Upon killing the witness, another person stumbles upon that scene, a similar determination is made and so on. From the murderer's perspective, it appears that the silencing of all witnesses is a necessary and crucial part of preventing discovery of the initial murder.

The silencing of the Whistleblower may be viewed in similar fashion, as the retaliatory efforts of wrongdoers are considered a necessary and crucial part of preventing discovery of initial and/or continuing improprieties. It is my opinion that this film would be considered entertaining in the instant forum and thus, quite capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival.

### WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS

'With My Own Two Hands' appears to represent the uninterrupted journey and progress of individuals, acquaintances, friends, lovers and families in which one's hands and those of others are recognized as being chiefly responsible for expressing everything from celebration and rearing of new life to the various meaningful embraces each of us hope to encounter during our lifetime. This film properly credits hands as being of monumental importance in our ability to function, handle, care for and express a great deal of emotion and thought, provoking feelings of appreciation for what may be the least credited portions of our anatomy.



MARIEN MICAEL BROCK TERICMAND PRICIPE LUDIORISCO MOLIS GERRA. DAN ROMBOD HEIDE BROT COLLAIME MONRAUX Amerikas micael brock tericande pricipe Ludiorisco molis gerra. Dan rombod heide brot collaine monraux Amerikas Collistine sulviniscome chrotippe while (CC sou primisi navial na Micael Brock).

Whistleblowers suffer a number of misfortunes, including shunning which leads to countless tensions and breaks in human contact, often creating the impression that the Whistleblower is not worthy of support, embrace or the many other pleasures featured in this delightful illustration of uninterrupted progression of life. This film may give Whistleblowers and/or those that dare to assist and support them, not only something to look forward to reclaiming, but permission to embrace those that have gone without benefit of the caring and supportive touch of others - a key component of happy, healthy and productive lives. While 'With My Own Two Hands' may not appear to advance the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival at first blush, I recommend the film be included and would argue that everyone in attendance should have the chance to view and appreciate it perhaps as a closing to the SHORTS segment of the film festival.



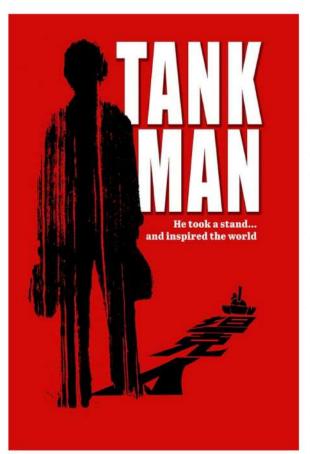
The '89 Democracy Movement

The Tiananmen Square protests, commonly known in mainland China as the June Fourth Incident were student-led demonstrations held in Tiananmen Square in Beijing during 1989. The popular national movement inspired by the Beijing protests is sometimes called the '89 Democracy Movement. The protests started on 15 April and were forcibly suppressed on 4 June when the government declared martial law and sent the military to occupy central parts of Beijing. In what became known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre, troops with assault rifles and tanks fired at the demonstrators and those trying to block the military's advance into Tiananmen Square. Estimates of the death toll vary from several hundreds to several thousands, with thousands more wounded.

Set off by the death of pro-reform Communist leader Hu Yaobang in April 1989, amid the backdrop of rapid economic development and social changes in post-Mao China, the protests reflected anxieties about the country's future in the popular consciousness and among the political elite. Common grievances at the time included inflation, corruption, limited preparedness of graduates for the new economy, and restrictions on political participation. The students called for greater accountability, constitutional due process, democracy, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech, although they were highly disorganized and their goals varied. At the height of the protests, about 1 million people assembled in the Square. The international community, human rights organizations, and political analysts condemned the Chinese government for the massacre. Considered a watershed event, the protests set the limits on political expression in China up to the present day. Its memory is widely associated with questioning the legitimacy of Communist Party rule and remains one of the most sensitive and most widely censored topics in China.

# **TANK MAN**

Tank Man is the story of the iconic gentleman who stood in front of and stopped a line of tanks after the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989. All that is known of this man are the images that were recorded of his acts. This film is a speculation of what he went through the day he took his courageous steps 30 years ago. Powerful, short, and very relevant/timely in terms of the theme of social justice/standing up to a corrupt government. Tank Man displays how even short films can fit the powerful themes of the Whistleblower Summit and transmit strong messages for Democracy and Human Rights.



'Tank Man' is a remarkable short film featuring the hypothetical scenario of a family's shock and interactions after waking to bombs, gunfire and the obvious chaos of war seeking to enforce Martial Law against student-led protests in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Having read a story to his young son about the sacrifice of outer protectors in protecting those on the inside of a ball rolling downhill to escape fire beforehand, a nameless husband and father's promise to return home after reporting to work and gathering food for his family is compromised as he is warned by his older employer that, unfortunately, his generation failed and that the employee's generation must deal with the current regime to prevent it from becoming an inheritance to their children. After leaving work, going to get food and witnessing the abduction of a mother whose son is involved in the protests, Tank Man witnesses tanks descending upon Tiananmen Square, confronts the first one with groceries in

hand and assumes the role of outer protector in blocking the tank's path - fully understanding the seemingly necessary sacrifice he is making.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the massacre at Tiananmen Square, the Chinese Government continues to try to erase any trace of the violence and human rights violations that occurred in Tiananmen Square from all media. 'Tank Man' is a well made short film sparking memories and emotions concerning the massacre of June 3-4, 1989, an incident that remains socially relevant today. In my opinion, 'Tank Man' is quite capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival and may be considered award worthy.

# BEST DOCUMENTARY (SEMI-FINALIST)



# WHISTLEBLOWERS

'WHISTLEBLOWERS' is a quality documentary featuring the stories of 5 whistleblowers from New York State. Accounts having common themes of failure, corruption and cover-up within and among various governmental and law enforcement agencies charged with protection of the public are depicted throughout this film.



The journeys outlined include parents having lost a developmentally disabled child at the hands of a driver employee; a father having garnered too much attention after going public with the fact that his accident victim son, living in a state sanctioned individual residential facility, had maggots in and around his breathing tube; a female contractor used as a pawn to fraudulently obtain construction contracts for the 'boys' club; retaliation against a school administrator having scrutinized an inappropriate relationship between a teacher and student; and the decades-long effort of gym door company owners to make gym partition doors safe for students in all New York State schools, despite life-altering opposition and vicious threats.

'WHISTLEBLOWERS' is in line with several approved Whistleblower Summit themes. The testimony of the survivors featured therein appears sincere and representative of the traditional Whistleblower journey. For the reasons stated above, it is my opinion that WHISTLEBLOWERS is quite capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival.

# **BEST FEATURE**

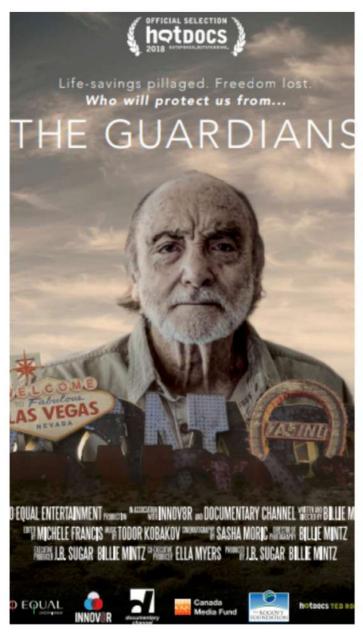


# THE GUARDIANS

The Canadian investigative documentary film by Billie Mintz, "The Guardians" (2019), is set in Las Vegas, Nevada. It depicts the stories of seniors fraudulently placed under the control of the alleged corrupt Nevada Guardianship / Family Court systems and of family members having fought for the freedom of their loved ones.

When the Baby-Boomer generation departs, it will leave behind an unprecedented 45 trillion dollars in assets. As family and friends dread the coming loss of their beloveds, some of the more greedy among us are unwilling to await their deaths and seek to pillage what can be stolen while seniors are yet living. This film alleges the presence of systematic schemes carried out within the Nevada Guardianship and Family Court systems that harvest the assets of seniors by forcibly incarcerating targeted persons in healthcare facilities where they are given unnecessary healthcare constituting medical malpractice and by applying intimidation to separate seniors from family and friends having previously supported and protected them. The aforementioned sudden, drastic environmental changes against the seniors' wills are intended to effectively isolate seniors and to hasten their declines leading to death.

In effect, the legal guardianship process intended to protect seniors, actually attacks them and preys upon their resources, which it then serves to the courts, legal representatives, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities, whom feed off of the resources by assessing excessive and often exorbitant fees. If seniors outlive their assets or gain their freedom, there is virtually nothing remaining that they can rely upon for survival. Seniors typically endure final residence in nursing homes that consume their perpetual government benefits until death. If seniors die on schedule, there is nothing for their heirs to inherit.



This film is precise perfection. Nothing except internal whistleblower detailed content could have improved it. As there are criminal implications for powerfully connected system participants and real threat to the lives of those whom oppose them, it is doubtful that an inside whistleblower will be forthcoming without federal protections. Fortunately, more than one external whistleblower courageously stepped forward with factual information and insight that clarified the scope and duration of this deadly fraudulent scheme.

The storytelling of Billie Mintz is both succinct and poignant. He offers lucid supporting facts that lead viewers to an observational conclusion: Systemic collusion to commit government sanctioned fraud against the most vulnerable population in the United States (US) is pervasive and typically met with indifference. Sadly, during the fast paced prosecution of life within the US, seniors too often are pushed aside into the shadows where they lead constricted lives while presumed to be in a predeath state. In the darkness, scavengers lurk.

The Guardians is a truly amazing film. Billie Mintz is a skilled and talented filmmaker but more importantly this film helps to explain and crystallize an impending crisis in American elder care and financial abuse. The individual stories are riveting from Julie's "Somebody took my parents..." to a mysterious "Deep Throat" type whistleblower who happens to be a real-life "Erin Brockovich" of Nevada guardianship and probate abuse. The Guardians is an incredibly powerful and important film that clearly explains the convoluted and complicated world of guardianship abuse. This is precisely the type of film that the Whistleblower Summit was created to highlight.

# CLOSING MATINEE

### OFFICAL SELECTION

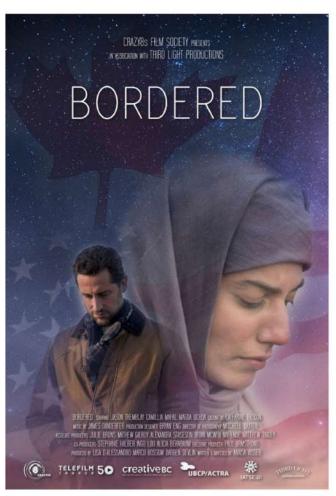


# **VIZA**

'ViZA' is an EXTRAORDINARY short film with English subtitles! The film illustrates the journey of a pregnant woman DETERMINED to provide her child French citizenship by staging the birth to occur in the lobby of the French embassy where the standard practice of the featured employee appears to be routine denial of Visa applications, feeling no duty to inform or educate applicants in relation to perceived defects.

Ablavi Gbekou patiently awaits the start of labor in the lobby of the embassy (a French territory), kindly allowing others to go before her and stating 'my turn will come soon,' whenever challenged concerning her decision to continue waiting. When labor begins, Ablavi commands the attention of not only waiting applicants, the Visa clerk and her assistant, but the inaccessible AMBASSADOR herself!!!! Upon hearing of Ablavi's circumstances, including the alleged loss of her husband during his clandestine immigration attempt, the Ambassador demands that staff get her name and information, eventually acting in accordance with Ablavi's meticulous calculations.

In my opinion, 'ViZA' is demonstrative of a number of approved Summit themes, will definitely be considered entertaining and informative by attendees and will significantly advance the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival.



# **BORDERED**

'Bordered' is a quality short film implicating current U.S. Immigration policy relative to what is considered by many to be a Muslim Ban. The film highlights the dilemma of a U.S. Border Patrol Agent apparently suffering from PTSD/anxiety relating to his experience as a former military officer in the field. The memories and visions associated with the killing of innocent people weigh on him immensely both at work and after hours. Upon driving home and having an episode forcing him to exit his vehicle, he hears screams of distress and decides to rescue Saria and Fatima (refugees), take up their cause and safely transport them to the Canadian border.

'Border' speaks to the approved Summit themes of Civil/Human Rights and Social Justice and thus, appears capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival.

# BEST SHORT (SEMI-FINALIST)



# ALONE PERSONAL STORIES FROM THE BRIDGE SADAT FORM ANIMATED DOCUMENTALY BY ARADIN JOHNSON ORIGINAL MYSIC BY LAVION BALL

# **HOAN ALONE**

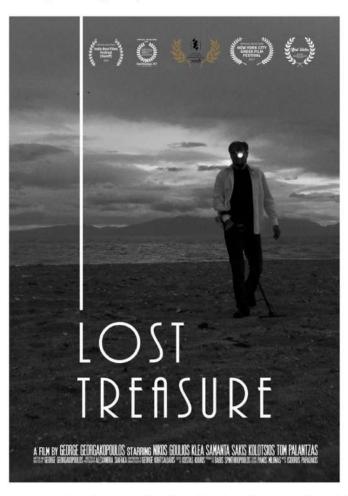
"Hoan Alone" features stories relating to the Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee. The bridge became active in 1977 and has been the site of 30 suicides in the last 19 years. 'Hoan Alone' is a remarkable, animated short film featuring a range of suicide scenarios consistent with Emile Durkheim's theory on suicide. The film presents the accounts of a person having suffered from depression in silence, a responder and a surviving relative, ultimately promoting the power of support and suggesting that one small act of kindness could save a life.

While the film does not address the plight of the Whistleblower per se, the difficult dilemmas and painful emotions many Whistleblowers have experienced in their respective journeys could certainly be addressed by the same question candidly asked in the film, "How does a person get to that point?"

It is my opinion that 'Hoan Alone' advances the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival and may be considered Award worthy.

## LOST TREASURE

'Lost Treasure' is a well paced, solid, engaging film. In the end, we are surprised, but not really, as the acting, writing and direction so absorb our attention and emotions, we have no desire for the mind to sacrifice one moment for the next. The human spirit is the question of the day. Can it change beyond flights of fancy, or is it our 'luck' that ultimately determines our fate? A good film, a great first film for director George Georgakopaulous.



'Lost Treasure' is a well made short film depicting a metal detector's outlook on life as being particularly unlucky. Antonis, who admits to generally betting once a day and losing often, apparently enjoys 'chance' and the helplessness one feels when coins are in the air or when dice are rolling. Antonis is given an extraordinary opportunity to pay off a debt when hired to find a valuable keepsake belonging to someone close to his debtor. During his journey to find the keepsake on a beach, chance comes into play and Antonis rolls the dice knowing the odds of winning are against him. He decides to place his trust in a stranger.

'Lost Treasure' explores the sense of hope many Whistleblowers may feel when taking a chance to confide in others, the various aspects of their predicaments. That 'chance,' representing hope of establishing meaningful

communication, mutual understanding and trust signaling a potentially fulfilling relationship is often dashed when it is discovered that such trust was misplaced. Consequences of such breaches are often severe, having a domino effect on emotions, the actual predicament and future efforts to engage in society. For the above-mentioned reasons, 'Lost Treasure' may touch the Whistleblower community and thus, is capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival.

# BEST FEATURE (SEMI-FINALIST)



# **UNFORGIVABLE TRUTH**

Unforgivable Truth is a very relevant film exposing abuse in the APS guardianship and Probate courts.

My name is Sharon de Lobo. Because of a personal experience, I have come to understand how vitally important Whistleblowers are in keeping our society safe and honest. So much that endangers our way of life, goes on behind closed doors, in secret, and remains unchanged. Those, who have observed these things in their workplaces and are willing to risk their employment to reveal it, are the true heroes. There are others, including myself, who also play a smaller, but necessary part in protecting us from harm—they are people who have gone through a particular experience and, fearing others will suffer a similar tragedy, choose to speak out. I made a documentary.

I am not a documentarian. Up until 2007, I was happily involved in the business of decorating wealthy clients' houses, helping them develop art collections, not to mention my very busy social life. Having been educated, for the most part, in Europe, living in homes that had been in the same family for hundreds of years, my proficiency in 6 languages helped greatly in my more recent pursuits. I donated to various humanitarian charities, animal rescue, preservation organizations, and local organizations, not out of any special interest but simply from a family tradition of responsibility to the community. My entire focus, in terms of time, thought and activity was on my decorating, my social circle, and the arts.



This all changed in 2007 when my mother made the loving choice to place her home and the great majority of her wealth in a foundation catering to severely at-risk children. Her decision meant that children who, in their homes, too often went to bed hungry would have been well fed on a daily basis.

Children without direction, would have been extended a loving hand to lead them to the path that could, to quote my mother, "replace cycles of poverty and desperation with optimism, self-respect and a productive place in the community." Sadly, it was all stolen from her in drawn-out acts of Financial Elder Abuse—a term I had never even heard.

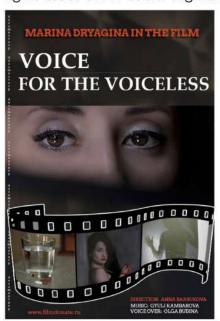
It changed the focus of my thoughts and my life forever. I began a Foundation of my own—The Elder Abuse Reform Now Project (EARN). Now, I no longer decorate people's houses and I can't remember when I was last at a large social event—I simply don't have the time.

# BEST SHORT (FINALIST)



# **VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS**

The creative documentary film "Voice for the Voiceless" (2019) is set in Russia. It employs subtitles to tell the story of a young woman's reaction to learning that she is HIV positive and her journey to reclaiming her confidence and inner peace through self-acceptance. She thoroughly educates herself about HIV, testing, treatment, and laws that protect her confidential medical information. She explores the human rights issues of HIV social stigma and minor children whom cannot advocate for



themselves by exercising legal authority to pursue life-saving healthcare.

In the end, she finds that, by following physician orders and pursuing a healthy lifestyle, there is valuable life remaining to be lived among good people whom regard her diagnosis fairly. She repurposes her life both to make contribution to society through advocacy for HIV patients and to make the most of each moment through artistic expression of love for herself and expression of love for her daughter.

This film is perfection with one exception. The pacing is a bit rushed at times, not allowing sufficient time for information to be absorbed fully in the moment. The film "Voice for the Voiceless" satisfies Summit goals by highlighting advocacy and is consistent with the human rights theme.

# IMPACT AWARD WINNER



# DECEPTIVE DIPLOMACY

Deceptive Diplomacy is a 2018 investigative documentary exposing a cover-up within the UN to hide crucial evidence concerning the deaths of UN experts Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is also a gripping story about two people that wanted to change the world in one of the most dangerous places on earth. 'Deceptive Diplomacy' is a remarkable documentary exploring the murders of two civilian UN Experts investigating significant human rights violations and tales of the existence of military mass graves.

On March 12, 2017, Zaida Catalán and Michael Sharp were murdered in Bunkonde, having been given assurances during a meeting with militiamen on March 11, 2017, that the area was safe for visitation by undercover Congo Security Service agents posing as interpreters refusing to interpret warnings given by an elder in the meeting. The UN experts were driven to Bunkonde by motorcycle taxi, lured into a grove of trees and shot dead. Zaida was later decapitated. Her head was removed and taken as a trophy. The bodies were discovered in shallow graves and both families were notified after having reported the pair missing two weeks earlier.

A 6-minute video of Zaida's and Michael's executions was released by the Congolese Government after the UN launched an investigation. The video illustrates those claimed responsible as being the Kamuina Nsapu (pronounced Camino Supul) Militia. Something appeared wrong. Axel Gordh Humlesjö and his team were deployed to the Congo to investigate.

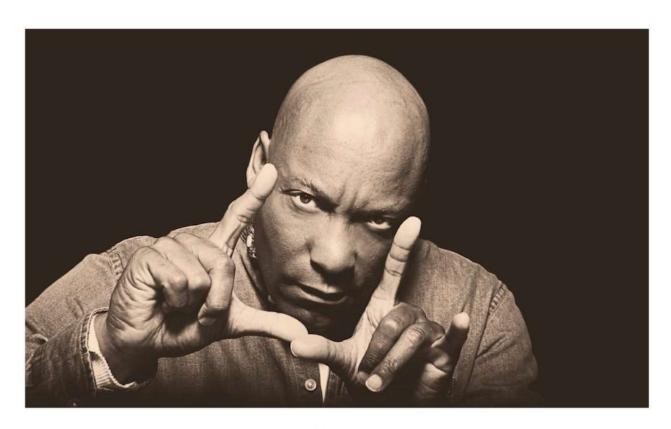


In a military court terrorism trial conducted in Kananga by prosecutor, General Mukuntu Timothee, defendant Kamuina Nsapu Militia members stood trial offering little testimony and/or defense. The investigative team was granted access to leaked, classified UN documents showing

inconsistencies with Congolese government representations of those it claimed responsible for the murders. Linguists assisting in the interpretation of voices in the murder video reveal two conflicting dialects being spoken - the local language of Cilubá spoken by those present and carrying out the execution and Lingala (Language of the Pigs) by those seemingly ordering the killings of Zaida and Michael remotely. One witness summoned to the trial, Colonel Jean De Dieu Mambweni, claimed he had only been talking to the leader of Kamuina Nsapu about ammunition and had no cell phone service the day of the murders in defense to allegations of his involvement. However, cell phone records contradict his testimony completely.

As the film progresses, it is discovered that, Congolese government soldiers routinely terrorize Bunkonde villagers by shooting adults and shooting randomly among the children present. These activities work to silence the community concerning Government soldiers' deeds and other matters they don't want revealed. The film goes on to suggest that classified UN documents regarding Zaida's and Michael's travels have been leaked by dedicated UN employees having "no faith in their own system." Additionally, despite having access to the same classified UN information Axel and his team have, Gregory Starr, top US Diplomat and Chairperson of the UN Security Management System Board of Inquiry, neglected to include details from those documents suggesting that the UN and the Congolese Government appear locked into a 'diplomacy agreement.' In essence, the 47-page investigative report concerning the murders of Zaida and Michael seeks to victim blame the pair for making irresponsible decisions rather than reveal evidence pointing to Congolese Government Intelligence Agents having ordered the murders. The film ultimately alleges that the UN protects the Congolese regime to maintain continued cooperation with the Congolese government and thus, has no interest in revealing that Zaida and Michael were killed to prevent exposure of military mass graves. Shortly after airing of the documentary, Colonel Jean De Dieu Mambweni was arrested.

"Deceptive Diplomacy" is a compelling documentary illustrating similar types of corruption, secrets and questionable relationships experienced by whistleblowers in the United States. In my opinion the film appears capable of advancing the interests of the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival and thus, is recommended for inclusion.



TRIBUTE - JOHN SINGLETON

It was nearly three decades ago when writer-director John Singleton's freshman film "Boyz N the Hood" gave us a compassionate and deeply human story about growing up black and ambitious with a life that is sadly expendable — long before Black Lives Matter rewrote that narrative. He earned not one, but two Academy Award nominations for helming the movie and penning the script. Though he didn't win, "Boyz N the Hood" is still talked about as one of the best and most tragically honest films about young black men, cementing its place in cinematic history and in the hearts of audiences across the globe.

After you pass away, what do you think is going to be the work that represents you best as a filmmaker? Why? And what do you want it to say about you as a filmmaker? — Emmanual Saint-Ange, LMU Student

Oh man. You're scaring me man. I haven't made my best work yet. I have my best work lying ahead of me. I have my best and my worst probably. I want to be remembered for my passion. And for the fact that my films, each one of them is a different soulful statement. — JOHN SINGLETON

John Singleton criticized the major studios March 19, 2014 for refusing to let African-Americans direct black-themed films. 'They ain't letting the black people tell the stories," the Oscar-nominated director-writer told students at Loyola Marymount University, expanding on a theme he addressed in a Dec. 18 Hollywood Reporter oped piece. Singleton addressed students at LMU School of Film and Television in Los Angeles, where he was interviewed by The Hollywood Reporter's Stephen Galloway

as part of *The Hollywood Masters* interview series. Other interviewees have included Alfonso Cuaron, David O. Russell, Judd Apatow and Sherry Lansing.

STEPHEN GALLOWAY: You did fictionalize one element [In Rosewood], which is the Ving Rhames character [Mann]. Why?

JOHN SINGLETON: I did that because the accounts of the soldiers coming back from World War I that were coming back to the South being lynched. Not all of them — this is what I love about written history as opposed to oral history: The written history is black people, no matter what their persecution was, no matter what was heaped upon them by institutionalized racism, and American terrorism, they always got their ass kicked, and they kowtowed and they left. That ain't true. Not my grandmother and my great grandmother stuff. We got our ass kicked but we kicked ass. People lynched our women, killed our kids, we went back and shot them. It's the people that are writing the history, that are re-writing history that they're trying to lead certain people to act a certain way. They're trying to lead people to celebrate and for people of color not to fight back against their persecution. It ain't true. We fought back. You just have to leave and go to Chicago, New York afterwards. The whole family would leave. There was a massive migration after the 20s.

STEPHEN GALLOWAY: Terrific article in The Hollywood Reporter. By the way, if any of you want to read it, it's a fantastic piece of writing where you say very bluntly, there's a sort of latent racism.

John Singleton "[Studio executives say] 'We're going to take your stories but, you know what? You're going to go starve over here and we're not going to let you get a job.' The so-called liberals that are in Hollywood now are not as good as their parents or ancestors. They feel that they're not racist. They grew up with hip-hop, so [they] can't be racist. 'I like Jay Z, but that don't mean I got to give you a job.'"

He added: "They want black people [to be] what they want them to be. And nobody is man enough to go and say that. They want black people to be who they want them to be, as opposed to what they are. The black films now — so-called black films now — they're great. They're great films. But they're just product. They're not moving the bar forward creatively. ... When you try to make it homogenized, when you try to make it appeal to everybody, then you don't have anything that's special."

"You've got a lot of black executives at the studio who are afraid to give their opinion about what black culture is," Singleton maintained. "There's a whole lot of black people who work in studios that don't need to be there, because they won't — if I give them the best thing possible, they're scared to give it to somebody [higher up], because they'd be like, 'Woah!'

"There's no Stephanie Allains," he said, referring to the producer and former Columbia exec who backed his debut. "Stephanie Allain kicked and screamed to get Boyz N the Hood made. Those people don't exist anymore, whether they're black, white or whatever."

STEPHEN GALLOWAY: How do you deal with studios because studios are so different from the type of movies you're talking about that you grew up watching. There are whole flotillas of executives telling you what to do.

JOHN SINGLETON: I stick to my guns. Everyone who's an executive, they live from quarter to quarter to make a successful slate of pictures. It's my job to be as hip and cool as possible and tell the best stories possible. I'm not going to cave because I'm trying to make somebody's feelings work. I've got so many hits under my belt, I must be doing something right. I'm trying to get what's in the zeitgeist on film before anyone else. I got to stick to my guns on what I feel is right for the picture, no matter what. I don't care if somebody going home crying because I made them feel bad about not being hip. This is what I've got to do.

Singleton will be remembered for being a pioneering voice who helped catapult black stories onto the screen where they belong.

"There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship." – Ralph Nader



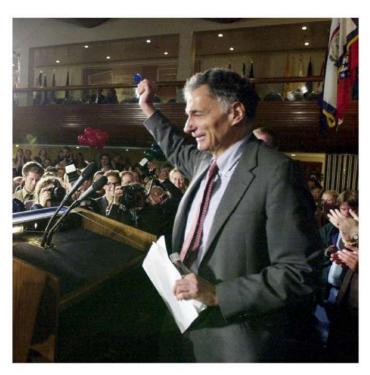
# SPOTLIGHT - RALPH NADER

Ralph Nader is one of America's most effective social critics. His analyses and advocacy have enhanced public awareness and increased government and corporate accountability. His example has inspired a whole generation of consumer advocates, citizen activists, and public interest lawyers who, in turn, have established their own organizations throughout the country. He first made headlines as a young lawyer in 1965 with his book *Unsafe at Any Speed*, a scathing indictment that lambasted the auto industry for producing unsafe vehicles. The book led to congressional hearings and the passage of a series of automobile safety laws in 1966.

The first organization Nader launched is the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Study of Responsive Law. Since 1969, the Center has produced innumerable groundbreaking reports on wide-ranging subjects such as air and water pollution, food, auto and occupational safety, pensions, Freedom of Information, various lagging government agencies, corporate welfare, nuclear power, and government procurement. Nader also went on to found a wide variety of organizations, all aimed at advancing corporate and government accountability. Nader-founded or Nader-inspired groups include Public Citizen, the Center for Auto Safety, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Clean Water Action Project, the Pension Rights Center, the Princeton Alumni Corps, and the Appleseed Foundation—a nonprofit network of 17 public interest justice centers.

In addition, Nader conceived the idea for and helped establish the state-based PIRGs—Public Interest Research Groups—which are organizations that function on college campuses and in communities in 23 states. The PIRGs have published hundreds of ground-breaking pioneering reports and guides, lobbied for laws in their state legislatures, and called the media's attention to consumer, environmental, and energy problems, as well as exploitations and deprivations directed toward students.

Nader also played a pivotal role in advancing and improving several major federal consumer protection laws such as the motor vehicle safety laws, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Pure Food and Drug Act, the Clean Air Act, and the landmark Freedom of Information Act, and he worked tirelessly to launch federal regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).



An author, lecturer, attorney, and political activist, Nader's lifelong work and advocacy has led to safer cars, healthier food, safer drugs, cleaner air and drinking water, and safer work environments. In 2006 he was cited by The Atlantic as one of the one hundred most influential figures in American history, TIME Magazine has called him the "U.S.'s toughest customer," The New York Times has said of him that "[w]hat sets Nader apart is that he has moved beyond social criticism to effective political action," and in 1974, a survey conducted by U.S. News and World Report rated him as the fourth most influential person in the United States.

In September of 2015, Nader received extensive mass media coverage for his newest project: the American Museum of Tort Law in Winsted, Connecticut—the first law museum in America. Nader remains focused on empowering citizens to create a responsive government sensitive to citizens' needs. One of his top priorities is defending the U.S. civil justice system. Corporate lobbyists and anti-consumer legislators have worked on both the federal and state levels to restrain consumers' rights to seek justice in court against wrongdoers in the area of product liability, securities fraud, and medical negligence. Nader continues to work relentlessly to advance meaningful civic institutions and citizen participation as an antidote to corporate and government unaccountability.



TRIBUTE - DICK GREGORY

**Richard Claxton Gregory** (October 12, 1932 – August 19, 2017) was an American comedian, civil rights activist, social critic, writer, entrepreneur, and actor. During the turbulent 1960s, Gregory became a pioneer in stand-up comedy for his "no-holds-barred" sets, in which he mocked bigotry and racism. He performed primarily to black audiences at segregated clubs until 1961, when he became the first black comedian to successfully cross over to white audiences, appearing on television and putting out comedy record albums. He was also the only person who would hire Frank Wills, an African-American security guard, who was destitute due to retaliation and harassment he received from the Nixon Administration following his discovery of the Watergate break-in.

Gregory was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Lucille, a housemaid, and Presley Gregory. When he was nine years old, he was the victim of a racist attack for touching a white woman's leg while shining her shoes. Gregory began his career as a comedian while serving in the military in the mid-1950s. He served in the Army for a year and a half at Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Lee in Virginia, and Fort Smith in Arkansas. He was drafted in 1954 while attending Southern Illinois University. Gregory got his start in comedy in the Army, where he entered and won several talent shows. In 1956, Gregory briefly returned to SIU after his discharge, but dropped out because he felt that the university "didn't want me to study, they wanted me to run." He moved to Chicago with a desire to perform comedy professionally.

In the hopes of becoming a professional comedian, Gregory moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he became part of a new generation of black comedians that

included Nipsey Russell, Bill Cosby, and Godfrey Cambridge, all of whom broke with the minstrel tradition that presented stereotypical black characters. Gregory drew on current events, especially racial issues, for much of his material: "Segregation is not all bad. Have you ever heard of a collision where the people in the back of the bus got hurt?"

While working for the United States Postal Service during the daytime, Gregory performed as a comedian in small, primarily black-patronized nightclubs. He was one of the first black comedians to gain widespread acclaim while performing for white audiences. In an interview with *The Huffington Post*, Gregory described the history of black comics as limited: "Blacks could sing and dance in the white night clubs but weren't allowed to stand flat-footed and talk to white folks, which is what a comic does."

In 1961, Gregory was working at the black-owned Roberts Show Bar in Chicago when he was spotted by Hugh Hefner. Gregory was performing the following material before a largely white audience:

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I understand there are a good many Southerners in the room tonight. I know the South very well. I spent twenty years there one night.

Last time I was down South I walked into this restaurant and this white waitress came up to me and said, "We don't serve colored people here." I said, "That's all right. I don't eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken."

Then these three white boys came up to me and said, "Boy, we're giving you fair warning. Anything you do to that chicken, we're gonna do to you." So I put down my knife and fork, I picked up that chicken and I kissed it. Then I said, "Line up, boys!"



Gregory attributed the launch of his career to Hefner. Based on his performance at Roberts Show Bar, Hefner hired Gregory to work at the Chicago Playboy Club as a

replacement for comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey. Gregory made his first television appearance on the late night show *Tonight Starring Jack Paar*. He soon began appearing nationally and on television.

Early in his career, Gregory was offered an engagement on *Tonight Starring Jack Paar*. Paar's show was known for helping propel entertainers to the next level of their careers. At the time, black comics did perform on the show, but after their performances, they were never asked to stay and sit on the famous couch and talk with the host. Dick Gregory declined several invitations from Jack Paar to perform on the show. Paar finally called him to find out why he refused to perform on his show. In order to have Gregory perform, the producers eventually agreed to allow him to stay after his performance and talk with the host on air. This was a first in the show's history. Gregory's interview on *Tonight Starring Jack Paar* spurred conversations across America.



Gregory was active in the civil rights movement. On October 7, 1963, he came to Selma, Alabama, and spoke for two hours on a public platform two days before the voter registration drive known as "Freedom Day" (October 7, 1963).

In 1964, Gregory became more involved in civil rights activities, activism against the Vietnam War, economic reform, and anti-drug issues. As a part of his activism, he went on several hunger strikes and campaigns in America and overseas. In the early 1970s, he was banned from Australia, where government officials feared he would "...stir up demonstrations against the Vietnam war."

In 1964, Gregory played a role in the search for three missing civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner,

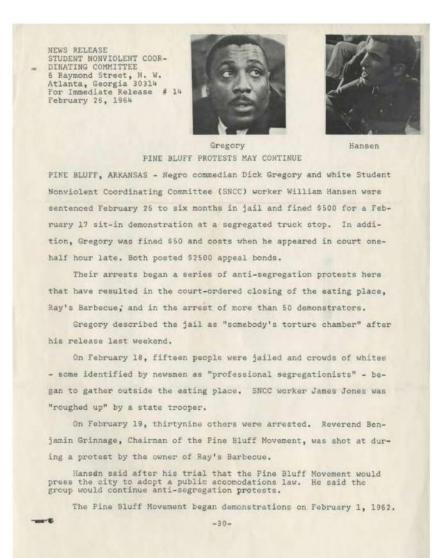
who vanished in Philadelphia, Mississippi. After Gregory and members of CORE met with Neshoba County Sheriff Lawrence A. Rainey, Gregory became convinced that the Sheriff's office was complicit. With cash provided by Hugh Hefner, Gregory announced a \$25,000 reward for information. The FBI, which had been criticized for inaction, eventually followed suit with its own reward, and the rewards worked. The bodies of the three men were found by the FBI 44 days after they disappeared.

Shortly after this time, Gregory became an outspoken critic of the findings of the Warren Commission concerning the assassination of John F. Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald. On March 6, 1975, Gregory and assassination researcher Robert J. Groden appeared on Geraldo Rivera's late night ABC talk show Goodnight America. An important historical event happened that night when the famous Zapruder film of JFK's assassination was shown to the public on TV for the first time. The public's response and outrage to its showing led to the forming of the Hart-Schweiker investigation, which contributed to the Church Committee Investigation on

Intelligence Activities by the United States, which resulted in the United States House Select Committee on Assassinations investigation.

Gregory was at the forefront of political activism in the 1960s, when he protested the Vietnam War and racial injustice. He was arrested multiple times and went on many hunger strikes. He later became a speaker and author, primarily promoting spirituality. Gregory gave the keynote address for Black History Month at Bryn Mawr College on February 28, 2013. His take-away message to the students was to never accept injustice.

Once I accept injustice, I become injustice. For example, paper mills give off a terrible stench. But the people who work there don't smell it. Remember, Dr. King was assassinated when he went to work for garbage collectors to help them as workers to enforce their rights. They couldn't smell the stench of the garbage all around them anymore. They were used to it. They would eat their lunch out of a brown bag sitting on the garbage truck. One day, a worker was sitting inside the back of the truck on top of the garbage, and got crushed to death because no one knew he was there.



Gregory was ranked number 82 on Comedy Central's list of the 100 Greatest Stand-Ups of All Time and had his own star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. He was a co-host with radio personality Cathy Hughes, and was a frequent morning guest on WOL 1450 AM talk radio's "The Power" -- the flagship station of Hughes' Radio One. He also appeared regularly on the nationally syndicated Imus in the Morning program. Gregory was also a frequent guest on WPFW in Washington, DC and appeared on other Pacifica Radio Network stations like WBAI in New York City.

# Opening Plenary / Welcome Session

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Monday, July 29, 2019 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM

Welcome and introduction of the occasion, followed by a historic presentation of a proclamation honoring / recognizing National Whistleblower Appreciation Day among the Whistleblower Summit community by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington DC.

- Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison
- Michael McCray, ACORN 8
- Andrew Kreig, Justice Integrity Project (JIP)
- Matthew Fogg, Federally Employed Women Legal Education Fund
- Tanya Ward Jordan, Coalition for Change (C4C)
- Tom Devine, Government Accountability Project (GAP)

Marcel Reid has had a major impact over the last decade in grassroots community organizing, the whistleblowing community, and a national media foundation. Her efforts have resulted in major policy changes. Reid is active in the public interest community supporting Free Speech and First Amendment Rights. She is a member of the Make It Safe Coalition and was instrumental in the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (WPEA). Marcel was a whistleblower before she joined Pacifica, and as a result of her strong ties and activism she became the Whistleblower Liaison for the Pacifica Foundation. In this capacity, Marcel Reid connects and promotes various whistleblowers to print and broadcast media outlets, including but not limited to Pacifica Radio Network.

Michael McCray, Esq., CPA is an Associate Board Member of KAPFCU and serves as the Administrator of Community Development Financial Initiatives. In that capacity, he is responsible for community and governmental affairs, as well as management of professional relationships between all concerned stakeholders. McCray began his community development career working on the federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) Initiative where he served with distinction as community development specialist and a National Speaker on community economic development issues and technology for USDA.

**Andrew Kreig**, Justice Integrity Project editor, media critic, attorney and author of Spiked: How Chain Management Corrupted America's Oldest Newspaper (1987) and Presidential Puppetry (2013).

Matthew Fogg received many accolades over the 25-year span of his career to include awards from the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, the Federal Bar Association for outstanding law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty while in the line of fire. He is credited with leading his elite enforcement team in the capture of over 300 dangerous fugitives - charged with murder I, terrorism, child molestation, kidnapping, armed robbery, prison escape, conspiracy to import and distribute ,major narcotics and guns, outstanding international warrants and many other heinous crimes. Five arrests were featured on the U.S. Marshals '15 Most Wanted' list, and profiled on the famed TV show America's Most Wanted. Matthew won a 1998 federal jury award of four million dollars with a promotion to Chief Deputy for discrimination and reprisals he suffered in the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

Tanya Ward Jordan, M.S. is a long-time advocate in the whistleblower community and the author of 17 Steps: A Federal Employee's Guide For Tackling Workplace Discrimination. After a 26-year career in the federal government, in 2009 she founded The Coalition For Change, Inc. (C4C). Tanya once served as a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Diversity Counsel, Acting President of Commerce's Blacks in Government - Ronald H. Brown chapter, data group leader for the NAACP Federal Sector Task Force, and an active No FEAR Coalition member helping to convene the first Citizen's Tribunal during the Whistleblower Week in Washington conference on Capitol Hill. She received a congressional award for her input into the "Notification and Federal Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR)," which was the first United States civil rights law of the 21st Century. In 2015, she received national recognition from the NAACP as a "Black History Maker." In 2017, Tanya received congressional recognition from Representative Elijah Cummings for her invaluable input on the bill known as the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2017.

Tom Devine is Government Accountability Project's Legal Director, and has worked at the organization since 1979. Since that time, Tom has assisted over 6,000 whistleblowers in defending themselves against retaliation and in making real differences on behalf of the public – such as shuttering accident-prone nuclear power plants, rebuffing industry ploys to deregulate government meat inspection, blocking the next generation of bloated and porous "Star Wars" missile defense systems, and sparking the withdrawal of dangerous prescription drugs such as Vioxx. Tom has been a leader in the campaigns to pass or defend 20 major national or international whistleblower laws, including every one enacted over the last two decades. Tom is the recipient of the "Hugh Hefner First Amendment Award" and the "Defender of the Constitution Award" bestowed by the Fund for Constitutional Government. In 2006 he was inducted into the Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame. Tom is a Phi Beta Kappa honors graduate of Georgetown University, earned his J.D. from the Antioch School of Law, and sits on the boards of the Disaster Accountability Project and Berrett Koehler Authors Cooperative.

# Working With The Office Of Special Counsel

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002 Monday, July 29, 2019 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

# Panel Participants:

Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project Ellen Chubin Epstein, Principal Deputy Special Counsel Siobhan Bradley, Disclosure Unit Jane Juliano, Alternative Disputes Resolution Unit

# Description:

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is the primary source of justice for federal whistleblowers, including all who cannot afford due process litigation. It also screens and orders investigations of whistleblowing disclosures when it believes there is a substantial likelihood the employee is correct. However, this tiny agency realistically cannot fight and win battles on behalf of all whose rights have been violated. The Office has well-established processes counsel to maximize its impact, such as an emphasis on settlement and an active Alternative Disputes resolution (ADR) unit.

In this panel, OSC representatives will offer guidance for the best working relationships with the agency, from realistic expectations, how their units operate, and how whistleblowers can most effectively work with the Office. The goal for this workshop is to help whistle-blowers learn the realistic expectations when seeking help from the OSC, and how most effectively to obtain it. By better understanding the OSC's procedures, limitations and the full range of assistance available, whistleblowers can reduce frustration and maximize the support they receive.

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# **Economic Apartheid: Blackballing Minority Financial Institutions**

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Monday, July 29, 2019 2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

# Panel Participants:

Mathew Fogg, Retired U.S. Chief Deputy Marshal Michael McCray, Advisor - Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union (KAPFCU) Victor Russell, President/Chairman - Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union (KAPFCU) Brian Gately, Former Director of Technical Assistance - National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (NFCDCU)

# Description:

The modern civil rights movement is the struggle for Economic Justice. This panel will explore the provocative question — "Are federal regulators unfairly targeting minority owned banks and credit unions for liquidation?" Economic justice (not just social justice) is the cornerstone of the modern civil rights movement. True equality requires that African-Americans build and control their own financial institutions in order to compete in America's capatilistic society. This includes banks, thrifts, finance companies and credit unions.

NCUA Case Study: A tiny African-American credit union sought constitutional due process from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) in a landmark lawsuit filed in the Federal District Court for Washington, DC. On August 3, 2010 the NCUA served a surprise liquidation order on Kappa Alpha Psi Federal Credit Union (KAPFCU). The NCUA summarily liquidated the fledgling credit union of an African-American fraternity with a 100 year history of community service – without due process. In less than six short years, tiny KAPFCU had racked up an incredible number of firsts in the credit union world. KAPFC was the first "virtual" credit union authorized by the NCUA, as well as the first and only NCUA designated Low Income Credit Union (LICU) that serviced a national footprint. KAPFCU was also the first African-American fraternal credit union to become a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the U.S. Treasury Department. KAPFCU is a prime example of an innovative financial platform and NCUA's surprise liquadition appears to constitute a case of economic apartheid.

**Matthew Fogg** received many accolades over the 25-year span of his career to include awards from the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, the Federal Bar Association for outstanding law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty while in the line of fire. He is credited with leading his elite enforcement team in the capture of over 300 dangerous fugitives - charged with murder I, terrorism, child molestation, kidnapping, armed robbery, prison escape, conspiracy to import

and distribute major narcotics and guns, outstanding international warrants and many other heinous crimes. Five arrests were featured on the U.S. Marshals '15 Most Wanted' list, and profiled on the famed TV show America's Most Wanted. Matthew won a 1998 federal jury award of four million dollars with a promotion to Chief Deputy for discrimination and reprisals he suffered in the United States Marshals Service (USMS).

**Victor Russell** is former President/CEO of KAPFCU and provides twenty-six (26) years of expanding entrepreneurial experience in real estate acquisitions, appraisal reviews, finance and mortgage banking. Russell represented and evaluated in excess of \$1.6 billion of REO's, non-performing, sub-performing and performing mortgages for Bear Stearns / EMC real estate division for 17 months. Russell conducts underwriting / review of residential and multifamily portfolios per Fannie Mae / Freddie Mac guidelines, as well as residential B, C, D, mortgage pools on a national basis for institutional investors. Russell reviewed and established procedures relative to HAMDA audits for FDIC insured institutions and was consistently effective in maximizing ROI's, providing higher organizational profits and market share through creative acquisition strategies. Russell produced residential sales averaging \$4.6 Million annually, through First United and Re/Max brokerage firms.

Michael McCray, Esq., CPA is an Associate Board Member of KAPFCU and serves as the Administrator of Community Development Financial Initiatives. In that capacity, he is responsible for community and governmental affairs, as well as management of professional relationships between all concerned stakeholders. McCray began his community development career working on the federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC) Initiative where he served with distinction as community development specialist and a National Speaker on community economic development issues and technology for USDA. McCray earned a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center, a MBA in Finance from Howard University and a B.S. in Economics from Florida A&M University. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi since 1987, McCray has served as Junior Vice Polemarch (Regional Vice President) for the Southern Province, a national leadership position within the fraternity. McCray is a member of the New York State Bar Association and former licensed CPA. McCray champions predatory lending, mortgage fraud and sub-prime mortgage lending reforms as a National Board Delegate to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). McCray has developed significant expertise in labor and community organizing.

Brian Gately, CEO of Brian Gately Credit Union Consulting Services, was until September, 2011 the Technical Assistance Director, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. Mr. Gately joined the Federation in March, 1997. He has worked with credit unions since 1973, first with cooperatives in Colombia, South America, as a Peace Corps volunteer, and then with the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) as an examiner, principal examiner, problem case officer, and as a supervisory examiner for the New York City area, until 1991, when he joined the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU). For two years, he was NCUA's New York and New England regional CDCU specialist. Mr. Gately won the NCUA's administrator's award for organizing five credit unions when he was examiner for the Caribbean area. From 1993-97, he was director for WOCCU's (World Council of Credit Unions) Bolivia, South America, microfinance project, and is fluent in Spanish and French. He has also worked extensively with Native American credit unions, involved with the chartering of Lakota Federal Credit Union (Pine Ridge, South Dakota) and Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union (Bois Fort, Minnesota). He's also worked with Native American credit unions in Wisconsin, Arizona, and Oklahoma.

# In Defense of the Family

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Monday, July 29, 2019 3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

# Panel Participants:

Marti Oakley, Host, TS Radio Network Marcia Southwick, Boomers Against Elder Abuse Dr. Zena Crenshaw-Logal, Executive Director, NJCDLP

# Description:

The panel will focus on the disparities in the judicial system, specifically the probate tribunals, which can declare an elderly individual civilly dead in order to exploit the estate. Once captured in this system the elderly are most times isolated, medicated and then conveniently die, just as their estates are tapped out. Cremation is the standard for disposing of the body (evidence) before the family can investigate the actual cause of death. With little to no attention paid to civil or human rights, much less to Constitutional protections, thousands of elderly individuals are targeted by professional predators each year.

Marti Oakley has hosted and produced TS Radio Network for more than ten years and has collected hundreds of cases on alleged abusive guardianships being implemented across the country. As a national advocate for the elderly caught in predatory guardianships, her primary focus is the exploitation of the elderly by those looking to enrich themselves at their expense simply because they "aged with assets."

Marcia Southwick is the founder of Boomers Against Elder Abuse on Facebook. "Boomers" which is a running report on current issues facing families and victims as the elderly are preyed upon for profit. With 158,766 followers, Boomers has become the pivotal resource for information on the exploitation and abuse of the elderly by professional for-profit guardians and attorneys. Every year more than 5 billion in assets of all kinds are diverted from victims and family's as probate courts continue to provide cover for the predators.

**Dr. Zena Crenshaw-Logal** is a national spokesperson on tactics thwarting proper standards for regulating First Amendment activities among lawyers when their criticism of the judiciary or a judicial officer is involved. She has authored well over 100 articles, online and print, addressing various aspects of grassroots advocacy, First Amendment issues, democracy, human rights, and the administration of justice in America. Dr. Crenshaw-Logal is author of "The Official End of Judicial Accountability Through Federal Rights Litigation: Ashcroft v. Iqbal", 35 Am. J. Trial Advoc. 125 (Summer 2011), and Exploring the Vitality of Stare Decisis in America. Boca Raton: Universal Publishers, 2012.

# Is There a Book in your Story, a Hit in your Hurt?

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Monday, July 29, 2019 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

# Panel Participants:

Rob Kall, Publisher, OpEdNews.com, Author of The Bottom-up Revolution Andrew Kreig, Executive Director, Justice Integrity Project Robert Gettlin, co-author "Silent Coup," and Washington, DC-based journalist Roger Charles, Investigative Reporter

# Description:

Experts on cutting edge issues describe from first-hand experience, practical pointers on creating a successful book from whistleblowing experience. One panelist's new book constitutes a courageous critique of important parts of standard narratives of Watergate held dear by major newspapers especially, and is a particular challenge to the Washington Post and its allies. The panelists will deliver candid commentaries on benefits, risks and possible harm to both author and the public in making a decision to take a story public through book or film. This panel will provide first hand, practical advice to would-be authors, as well as an understanding of the authors' dramatic, history-making whistleblowing.

**Rob Kall**, authored the 2019 book *The Bottom Up Revolution*. He is also an inventor, journalist, and founder of the Op-Ed News website, a United States-based progressive/liberal news, antiwar activism, and opinion website founded in 2003. He has published over 1700 articles through the Op-Ed News website and many have been cross-published elsewhere. He is the host of "The Bottom Up Radio Show" and "Futurehealth Radio Show." In July 2013, Kall, along with his Op-Ed News, became the first media winners of the Pillar Human Rights Award for International Persons of Conscience for supporting whistleblowers and the first amendment at that year's Whistleblowers Summit for Civil & Human Rights.

**Robert Gettlin** is the co-author "Silent Coup: The Removal of a President," the national bestseller on Watergate that first revealed the hidden political and media agendas behind the scandal and that led to the resignation of President Nixon. He was a reporter and editor for more than 30 years, including as a managing editor at National Journal magazine, overseeing investigative and enterprise coverage. He then served nine years as a senior official at the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of the Interior, in charge of the editing and publication of hundreds of audit and investigative reports, many of which involved whistleblower cases.

**Andrew Kreig**, Justice Integrity Project editor, media critic, attorney and author of Spiked: How Chain Management Corrupted America's Oldest Newspaper (1987) and Presidential Puppetry (2013).

**Roger Charles**, a Peabody award-winning investigative reporter for leading news outlets, co-author of *Oklahoma City: What the Investigation Missed—and Why It Still Matters* (William Morrow books, 2012) and a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marines.

## National Whistleblower Appreciation Day Luncheon

Sponsored by the National Whistleblower Center

—Registration Required—

Dirksen Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SD-106 Washington, DC 20002

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the National Whistleblower Center will sponsor a Luncheon in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

"That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any person in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge."

— Resolution of the U.S. Continental Congress unanimously passed on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1778

The National Whistleblower Day Luncheon is an annual non-partisan event that will commemorate the 241st anniversary of America's first whistleblower law and recognize the great contributions of whistleblowers to democracy both in the United States and abroad. The event will feature speakers including agency heads, lawmakers, whistleblowers, and whistleblower advocates. This is an invitation-only event hosted by the National Whistleblower Center. Separate registration is required. For more information, please contact info@whistleblowers.org.

## **Working More Effectively With Congress**

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 2:00 PM to 2:50 PM

## Panelists:

Shanna Devine, Worker Health and Safety Advocate, Public Citizen's Congress Watch Division (Moderator)

Krista Boyd, General Counsel, House Oversight and Reform Committee (Majority) David Berick, Chief Investigator, Senate Finance Committee (Minority) Brian Downey, Senior Investigator, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Majority) (INVITED)

#### Description:

The goal for this workshop is grounded in realistic expectations, tactics for best obtaining support, and success stories that illustrate the potential of whistleblowers working with Congress. It also will cover efforts in upcoming legislative campaigns to strengthen the remaining weak links of the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). The 116th Congress is our campaign for the final teeth before the WPA becomes a credible free speech shield.

Panelists include staff who are the front lines of working relationships with whistleblowers. Specifically, representatives from the House and Senate Whistleblower Caucuses, as well as from the congressional committees that oversee the WPA -- Senate Homeland Security Committee and House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Shanna Devine is the worker health and safety advocate for Public Citizen's Congress Watch division. In that capacity, she plays a leading role managing Congress Watch's policy and advocacy on occupational health and safety, including whistleblower rights for public and private sector employees. Shanna received her master of public management degree from the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. She completed her bachelor's degree in Critical Theory and Social Justice at Occidental College. Previously, Shanna served as lobbyist with Public Citizen's Access to Medicines Program, where she advocated for policies to make medicines available worldwide by challenging pharmaceutical industry monopoly power. Prior to joining Public Citizen, Devine was the Legislative Director for the Government Accountability Project, a whistleblower protection and advocacy organization.

**Krista Boyd** serves as General Counsel for Chairman Elijah E. Cummings on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Ms. Boyd's oversight and legislative work focuses on executive branch accountability including issues related to ethics compliance, government transparency, and information security. She assisted in the enactment of major legislation such as the FOIA Improvement Act, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, and the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments. Ms. Boyd served as Senior Counsel on the House Select Committee on Benghazi and as counsel for Senator Max Cleland. She is a graduate of Emory University School of Law and Florida State University.

**David Berick** is currently the chief investigator for the Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. He served previously as the chief investigator for the Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs as well as the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for House Liaison at the U.S. Department of Energy during the Clinton Administration after holding positions at the Department in the Office of Congressional Affairs and the Office of Environmental Management. He also served on the personal staffs of Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), as Senior Advisor for Energy and Environment, and Sen. Brock Adams (D-WA) as a Legislative Assistant. Prior to his federal service, David was Washington Representative for the Union of Concerned Scientists and Washington Representative for the Environmental Policy Center.

## Facing the "No FEAR" Factor

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

#### Panel Participants:

Tanya Ward Jordan, Founder, Coalition For Change Paulette Taylor, Coalition For Change Joyce E. Megginson, Coalition For Change

#### Description:

To best protect the public, who rely on essential government services related to such areas as health, housing, education, economy and the security of our nation, civil servants must be free to challenge unequal employment practices in the federal workplace. This panel examines the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR) of 2002 and subsequent amendments that ultimately serve to ensure our nations' safety and well-being. The panel will cover:

- 1. Origin of the No FEAR Act (The Federal Employee Anti-discrimination Act);
- 2. Purpose and provisions within the legislation;
- 3. Federal complaint patterns and trends since No FEAR law passage in 2002;
- 4. Notable cases involving civil servants exhibiting public impact; and
- 5. Most recent initiatives to amend No FEAR Act.

Public servants serve as a vital line of defense against domestic and injurious misconduct. Federal workplace misconduct has far-reaching effects on the public and, when left unchecked, imposes grave harm to members of the American society.

Tanya Ward Jordan, M.S. is a long-time advocate in the whistleblower community and the author of 17 Steps: A Federal Employee's Guide For Tackling Workplace Discrimination. After a 26-year career in the federal government, in 2009 she founded The Coalition For Change, Inc. (C4C). Tanya once served as a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Diversity Counsel, Acting President of Commerce's Blacks in Government - Ronald H. Brown chapter, data group leader for the NAACP Federal Sector Task Force, and an active No FEAR Coalition member helping to convene the first Citizen's Tribunal during the Whistleblower Week in Washington conference on Capitol Hill. She received a congressional award for her input into the "Notification and Federal Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR)," which was the first United States civil rights law of the 21st Century. In 2015, she received national recognition from the NAACP as a "Black History

Maker." In 2017, Tanya received congressional recognition from Representative Elijah Cummings for her invaluable input on the bill known as the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2017.

Paulette Taylor holds dual degrees in Business Administration and Human Resources Management and is an activist for social change within the Federal sector. She is a whistleblower, President and Co-founder of a non-profit organization, "Black Females for Justice II, Inc. at the Social Security Administration." She is a class agent in the EEOC certified race-based class complaint representing over 5,000 Black females. Ms. Taylor is a retired disabled veteran who served in the U.S. Army. Paulette holds many offices within the community, one of which is the Civil and Human Rights Chair for the Coalition for Change (C4C). Recently, Paulette received Congressional acclaim from her Congressman, Elijah Cummings, for her invaluable work on the bill titled the "Federal Employee Anti-discrimination Act."

Joyce E. Megginson, M.S. – Ms. Megginson holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management and a Masters of Science degree in Public Administration. She is a member of the Coalition for Change, Inc. (C4C) and serves as Chief Financial Officer of the Federal Employees Legal Defense Fund, Inc. (FELDF). Both organizations' mission is to expose racism and widespread discrimination in the federal workplace. Ms. Megginson was also one of the original activists with the No FEAR Coalition, a group instrumental in the passage of the "Notification and Federal Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR). Having served as one of three class agents in the Janet Howard, et. al vs Carlos Guttierez, Secretary of U.S. Department of Commerce, Joyce Megginson has testified before Congress about widespread discrimination. Her pursuit of justice set legal precedent in the U.S Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit with regard to statute of limitations for suits¹ against the U.S. Federal government.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Howard v. Pritzker, No. 12-5370 (D.C. Cir. 2015)

# Caught Between Conscience and Career: Expose abuse without exposing your identity

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 4:00 PM to 4:50 PM

#### Panel Participants:

Tim Mak, Political Reporter, National Public Radio
Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project
Nick Schwellenbach, Director of Investigations, Project on Government Oversight
Tim Whitehouse, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental
Responsibility

### Description:

Is it possible to fight wrongdoing from within without sacrificing your career? That's why Government Accountability Project, Project On Government Oversight, and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility published a free survival guide to help and empower conscientious government employees when they encounter wrongdoing in the workplace, covers:

- Why whistleblowing is important and professionally dangerous
- How to blow the whistle anonymously
- How best to protect your identity in the digital age
- How to navigate the bureaucracy of making an official disclosure
- How to work with the press
- The legal protections against retaliation and the limits of these protections

This panel will be moderated by Tim Mak, Political Reporter at NPR. Panelists will discuss the contents of their survival guide for federal employees and free hard copies of the publication will be available for attendees to take with them.

**Tim Mak** covers national security and politics for National Public Radio. His reporting interests include congressional investigations, foreign interference in American election campaigns and the effects of technology on politics. He appears regularly on NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered and the NPR Politics Podcast. Before joining NPR, Mak worked as a senior correspondent at The Daily Beast, covering the 2016 presidential election with an emphasis on foreign affairs. He has also worked on the Politico Defense team, the Politico breaking news desk, and at the Washington

Examiner. He has reported abroad from the Horn of Africa and East Asia. Mak graduated with a B.A. from McGill University, where he was valedictorian. He also holds national certification as an Emergency Medical Technician.

**Nick Schwellenbach** is Director of Investigations for POGO. Previously, he was the communications director at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. He was POGO's director of investigations from 2010 to 2012 and was an investigator from 2004 through 2008. He also was a senior fiscal policy analyst with the Center for Effective Government and a staff writer with the Center for Public Integrity. Nick received his B.A. in history from the University of Texas-Austin and his M.A. in journalism from American University.

**Tim Whitehouse** is Executive Director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. He has more than 25 years of experience working on a wide range of environmental issues with governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations and community groups. Tim was a senior attorney at the United States Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years, where he specialized in enforcement of the Clean Water Act and in hazardous waste compliance issues. He was also head of the Law and Policy Program at the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation in Montreal, Canada for 5 years. He has worked as a consultant for companies on environmental compliance issues, and with non-profit organizations focusing on clean energy issues. Most recently, he was executive director of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, a health advocacy group working to address climate change, toxics pollution, and nuclear disarmament issues in Maryland. He holds a JD and BA from Emory University and an MA from New York University.

Tom Devine is Government Accountability Project's Legal Director, and has worked at the organization since 1979. Since that time, Tom has assisted over 6,000 whistleblowers in defending themselves against retaliation and in making real differences on behalf of the public – such as shuttering accident-prone nuclear power plants, rebuffing industry ploys to deregulate government meat inspection, blocking the next generation of the bloated and porous "Star Wars" missile defense systems, and sparking the withdrawal of dangerous prescription drugs such as Vioxx. Tom has been a leader in the campaigns to pass or defend 20 major national or international whistleblower laws, including every one enacted over the last two decades. Tom is the recipient of the "Hugh Hefner First Amendment Award" and the "Defender of the Constitution Award" bestowed by the Fund for Constitutional Government. In 2006 he was inducted into the Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame. Tom is a Phi Beta Kappa honors graduate of Georgetown University, earned his J.D. from the Antioch School of Law, and sits on the boards of the Disaster Accountability Project and Berrett Koehler Authors Cooperative.

## National Whistleblower Appreciation Day Awards Reception

Sponsored by the Government Accountability Project, Public Citizen and Project on Government Oversight

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 5:00 to 6:30 PM

## **Pillar Award Presentation**

In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the Government Accountability Project will host an Awards Reception in the courtyard of the Stewart Mott House. The Pillar Award presentation is an annual ceremony celebrating notable First Amendment, Civil Rights and Human Rights champions.

Presentation by Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison

Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI)

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)

Representative Justin Amash (R-MI)

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Delegate Mark Sickles (VA-43)

## Do No Harm: Whistleblowing In Medicine

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

#### Panel Participants:

Deirdre Gilbert, National Director, National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association Chip Wagar, Attorney At Law L. Bradley Swartz, Attorney At Law Constance Jones, Founder, CRJ Healthcare Credentials and Consulting Ajshay James, Principal, HARPRIDGE, Inc.,

#### Description:

In the real world, how does whistleblowing happen in medicine? This panel will discuss the various forms whistleblowing takes on in the medical field, the ethical issues arising from it, the protections – or lack of them – for whistleblowers and the consequences that can result from it. Legal protections for whistleblowers in private employment –hospitals, for example – are extremely limited or non-existent in most states. Furthermore, acts of medical malpractice, professional and institutional negligence are often shrouded in secrecy, protected by law from disclosure.

Retaliation against doctors, nurses or other hospital employees via termination of employment is an ever-present sanction against reporting unsafe providers or procedures. In 2014, a retired physician Dr. Same Foote, disclosed at the Phoenix Veteran's Administration facility, a 'cook-the-books' wait-times bonus scandal. Though the scandal was first exposed at the Phoenix facility, it became national news. It is quite telling that, despite enactment of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 allegedly protection federal employees who blow the whistle, Dr. Same Foote felt intimidated enough to wait until he was retired to do so.

**Deirdre Gilbert –** Ms. Gilbert is National Director for the National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association (NMMAA) she started in 2013. Since then, the organization has been given recognition from State of Missouri Governor Jeremiah W. Nixon, former State of Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, and former State of Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. Deirdre also created the first PSA promoting and educating the public on "Preventable Medical Mistakes" which aired on Harkins movie screens across the states in September 2016. In 2019, NMMAA received the 1st Enrolled House Resolution 86 (R) HR 614 recognized by the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature recognizing July as Medical Malpractice Month. She is also the founder of the Jocelyn Dickson Foundation that supports and promotes scholarships for students who pursue medical careers, in addition to assisting children with disabilities.

Chip Wagar applies his more than three decades of civil trial litigation experience to some of the most complex and difficult cases of medical malpractice and products liability. As lead counsel in several prominent cases in recent medical malpractice jurisprudence in Louisiana, Mr. Wagar has conducted over fifty jury trials, countless other bench trials, hearings, and proceedings in his thirty-five years of litigation practice and experience. (See Fanguy v. Lexington Insurance Company, Butler v. Bevrotte, et al., Dupree v. José (Joseph) Nelson Dorta, et al., and most recently, Terre Matranga, et al. v. Parish Anesthesia of Jefferson, LLC, et al.)

L. Bradley Schwartz represented insurance companies, defending against lawsuits involving catastrophic injuries for more than 20 years. After an incident where he visited a local emergency room with a worsening headache, Mr. Schwartz awakened to find all four of his limbs amputated. In 2018, Mr. Schwartz created Greater National Advocates (GNA) where he serves as president of a national public service organization dedicated to promoting Patient Advocacy with the goal of reducing instances of medical error. Having emerged as a staunch advocate for patient safety and the prevention of medical error, Mr. Schwartz sat prominently on the Boards of Directors of The National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants (NAHAC) and The Patient Advocacy Credentialing Board (PACB), establishing and creating policy and national standards for patient advocacy professionals.

Constance Jones is a strong advocate for ensuring patient advocacy and protecting the interests of the underserved. Constance continues to work to shape good public policy on behalf of her constituents and is a formidable leader. Constance has over 30 years of healthcare experience and specializes in education/training of credentialing personnel; orientation/training of medical staff leaders and MSPs; administrative functions such as accreditation survey preparation, credentialing, privileging, and peer review; as well as assessment and development of medical staff governance documents relating to policies and procedures. Ms. Jones is a successful owner/entrepreneur of her own healthcare consulting company, CRJ Healthcare Credentials and Consulting.

**Ajshay James** is the principal of HARPRIDGE, Inc., a social enterprise dispute resolution firm headquartered in Houston, TX. Ms. James has significant mediation, arbitration and consultancy practice skills, honed over seventeen years of service as an accountant, auditor, facilitator, executive and resolution specialist. Prior to establishing her own firm, she was a senior auditor with an International firm where she specialized in complex fiduciary and intricate cases. Ms. James has handled hundreds of challenging disputes as an auditor, mediator and arbitrator. Ms. James has served on executive leadership panels, held positions on esteemed Boards of Directors for national and international, not-for-profit organizations and is committed to her community both as a business professional and humanitarian.

# Surviving Whistleblowing: Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles of Whistleblowing in the Federal Government

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

#### Panel Participants:

Rory Riley Topping, Attorney At Law Jason Piccolo, Department of Homeland Security Whistleblower Mary Ellen Belding, Principal, Structural Remediation Services, Inc. Jay DeNofrio, VA Whistleblower and Advocate Scott Davis, Veterans Advocate

#### Description:

The panel will explore common tactics or the retaliation "playbook" used against whistleblowers reporting wrongdoing in the federal government and share successful tips and strategies for reporting to oversight authorities and the media. The panel will also cover strategies for surviving retaliation and keeping your job after making a disclosure. The panel will review the difficulty the federal government and courts have had in defining the scope of what constitutes whistleblower retaliation, hostile work environment, and the lack of precedential decisions under the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012.

The panel will also cover topics including whistleblower litigation in the Federal Circuit; the current lack of quorum, the 2,000 case backlog at the MSPB; and the need to reform the Whistleblower Protection Act to allow for a direct avenue to Federal Courts for federal whistleblowers. The panel will give opinions of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, as well as share other federal agency efforts to hold supervisors and senior executives accountable, internally, and protect whistleblowers. The panel will share their experiences as federal whistleblowers and explore a broad range of challenges faced by federal employees and federal contractors when making protected whistleblower disclosures.

**Rory Riley Topping** is an attorney, government relations consultant, and veterans advocate. She has worked as an attorney for the Board of Veterans' Appeals, a law clerk for the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Subcommittee Staff Director and Counsel for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for retired-Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL), and has acted as staff attorney for the National Veterans Legal Services Program. She is a frequently cited authority on veterans matters in various local and national news publications.

**Dr. Jason Piccolo** is a former employee of the Department of Homeland Security and whistleblower. Jason is also a former U.S. Army officer having served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jason chronicles his whistleblowing experience in his book "Unwavering: A Border Agent's Journey from Hunter to Hunted."

Mary Ellen Belding is the former president and owner of Structural Remediation Services, Inc. (SRS), a commercial specialty contractor in Rochester, NY. In her role as Whistleblower, uncovering substantial fraud in Government Contracting, she was enlisted by Federal & State agencies to expose billions of dollars of public corruption. Today, the ongoing investigations have resulted in multiple indictments and convictions. Mary Ellen continues her activism, exposing the realities of Whistleblower Retaliation.

James "Jay" DeNofrio is a whistleblower at the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2013 reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and patient safety issues at the Agency. He has multiple ongoing whistleblower retaliation cases in the MSPB and Federal Circuit against the VA and the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. He has worked with the Government Accountability Office, Office of Inspector General and Congress toward the goal of bringing oversight, accountability and reform to the VA. He and his wife, Becky, are advocates for whistleblowers across the country.

**Scott Davis** is the former Public Affairs Officer for VHA Member Services. Mr. Davis possesses over twenty years of experience managing Veteran outreach initiatives, as well as government relations and civic engagement campaigns. Some of his honors and accomplishments include receiving two 2014 Common Cause Georgia Democracy awards, including Whistleblower of the Year. Scott's testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Committee in 2014 regarding delayed Veteran access to VA healthcare, resulted in legislative intervention that provided over 100,000 Iraq and Afghanistan Combat Veterans long-overdue healthcare benefits. Scott continues to advocate for Veterans by working with public interest groups to affect legislative changes to existing laws governing VA benefits.

## Dying for Dialysis?

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM

#### Panel Participants:

Arlene Mullin, Dialysis Advocate Gregory Coleman, Dialysis Patient / Whistleblower Dr. David Moskowitz, Founder, GenoMed, Inc. Eduard Tsyrulnykov, MD,

#### Description:

Dialysis patients don't have the luxury of just coping with the illness itself, because of the way that the Dialysis Industry is structured and how it operates in conjunction with the federal government. Dialysis advocates allege there is no oversight, and no control. Dialysis is the only fully funded medical program in the US, resulting in thousands of potentially unnecessary deaths each year as patients are subjected to arguably substandard treatment. Dialysis patients are involuntarily ejected from privately owned clinics and must then resort to ER treatment, by the same nephrologist whose clinic ejected them. Worth far more in the ER than in clinic setting, Dialysis patients can be worth up to \$1 Million annually.

**Arlene Mullin** is an advocate with 20 years experience guiding patients and their families through all aspects of End Stage Renal Disease and treatments. Mullin has served patients in a majority of states, engaging both Medicare and state health authorities towards resolution of quality care issues at clinics. She testified on patient care issues within the dialysis industry before the U.S. Senate in 2000.

**David W. Moskowitz, MD** - Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Medical Officer, and Founder of GenoMed, Inc. (GenoMed.com). Dr. Moskowitz majored in Chemistry at Harvard College, Biochemistry at Merton College, Oxford, and received an MD from the Harvard-MIT Division in Health Sciences and Technology (Harvard Medical School). He trained for 7 years in Internal Medicine, Biochemistry, and Nephrology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis before spending 11 years as faculty of St. Louis University School of Medicine.

**Eduard Tsyrulnykov, MD** - Founder of an innovation company specializing in developing and marketing of implantable/non-implantable neuromodulation units and indwelling catheters for treatment of failing/non-maturing dialysis access. USPTO Patent 9,364,603, "Multiple layer dilator single point vascular access device" issued June 2016. Member of the American Medical Association (AMA) and Member of Intensive Therapy Association of Ukraine.

**Greg Coleman** is a dialysis patient of 16 years, Mr. Coleman has experienced and witnessed terrible things, including other patients being subjected to extremely abusive and oppressive behaviors by management, doctors, dieticians, social workers and technicians.

## The Resilient Advocate: Elements, Ethics and End Results

The Stewart E. Mott House 122 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

### Panel Participants:

Jacqueline Garrick, Founder, Whistleblowers of America Maureen Elias, Deputy Director, Veterans Health Council of Vietnam Veterans Richard Hill, MD, Retired Primary Care Physician Irene Parker, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Ms. Heidi Weber, Associate Producer, Whistleblower on CBS

#### Description:

There is no denying that whistleblowers face societal stigmas and negative responses for their disclosures. The term whistleblower is all too often painted as "rat, snitch, or tattletale" including when conducting Microsoft Office synonym searches. These negative connotations have a psychological impact on ethical people who faced difficult decisions and took the high road to do the right thing. Only rarely do these people receive media recognition as heroes, such as in the movie portrayals of Serpico, Silkwood or Brockovich. Most whistleblowers face years and years of retaliation, harassment and discrimination. They are subjected to hostile work environments and workplace trauma. If they are not marginalized, devalued, shunned or facing mobbing, gas-lighting or violence, they are harmed in other ways. They are at constant risk of losing financial stability, social status, family security. Their physical and emotional health is impacted as a result.

As they move through and beyond the whistle blowing process, they must learn how to define their "new normal" and experience posttraumatic growth that comes from surviving hardships and rebuilding their sense of self and purpose. The key ingredient to being able to experience this growth comes from being able to build, maintain and sustain resilience. Resilience is the state of mind, body, and spirit that allows a person to overcome adversity and experience growth. Therefore, the resiliency skills needed to overcome whistleblower retaliation, discrimination or harassment in the workplace is an important discussion. Panelists will share information on resilient skill building and examples of how those skills have helped them to cope with stressful situations. The panel will focus on some of the concepts surrounding resilience, such as mindfulness, meditation, gratitude and forgiveness (of self and others).

**Jacqueline Garrick**, LCSW-C, SHRM-CP, founder of Whistleblowers of America (WoA) Ms. Garrick created the peer support program for those who identified waste, fraud, and abuse and faced discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Previously, Ms. Garrick was appointed to the Department of Defense, overseeing programs for

wounded warriors and their families, transitioning Service members, suicide prevention, diversity and inclusion, as well as professional development. She had been professional staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, The American Legion, and is a US Army veteran. She has presented extensively on mental health issues throughout the United States and internationally, and has published several books, chapters, and articles.

Maureen Elias, MA serves as the Deputy Director of The Veterans Health Council of Vietnam Veterans of America. She has a master's in mental health counseling from Bowie State University and a bachelor's in science (psychology) from Campbell University. Her awards and recognitions include; 2017 Ft Meade Base Spouse of the Year, Bowie State University Presidential Student Leadership Award, Veterans in Global Leadership Fellowship, and Class of 2017 Hillvets 100. Maureen has testified in front of the FDA, recorded a PSA for the FTC, and speaks around the nation about her experience with opioid withdrawal syndrome. Maureen served in the United States Army as a counterintelligence agent from 2001-2006.

**Richard Hill, MD** was licensed in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Board certified in Internal Medicine and Family Practice but is now retired. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and his post graduate training in Internal Medicine at the University of Florida and his Family Practice Residency at the University of Oklahoma. He was the Chief of Medical Services, US Public Health Service Hospital in Galveston, TX. He has also been the Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Florida/Gainesville VA and a Staff Physician with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at hospitals in Topeka, KS and Grand Junction, CO. He did a tour as a Physician at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Deschappel, Haiti. He returned to the VA and then worked with an HMO in Saint Cloud, MN, but eventually went back to primary care at the VA. He is the recipient of several awards for his work in medicine.

Irene Parker volunteers full time, facilitating other volunteers who support veterans, government workers, Service members and others who report that they experienced unfair and deceptive timeshare sales practices that have led to financial insolvency, bankruptcy and stress related physical and mental health deterioration. Following her career in the investment world, she volunteered as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in foster care for three years, leading to a fulltime position as CASA Supervisor. Irene also served on an Ombudsman Advisory Board, advocating for patients in nursing homes.

Ms. Heidi Weber, CMA (AAMA), RMA(AMT), EMT, BS, AAS, CLC is one of the first female whistleblowers to take on a For Profit College System that proved successful all the way through an agonizing jury trial. She began in South Dakota as a Certified and Registered Medical Assistant, Educator, and eventually rose to become Dean of a large nationally Allied Health program in the Corporate Business realm in Twin Cities, MN. Her story was featured as the Season 1 finale of "CBS Whistleblower" with Alex Ferrer and afterwards, she became an Associate Producer in Season 2. She continues to speak on and off camera to educate others about whistleblower facts versus myths. Heidi also selectively consults businesses and leaders on ethics, workplace dynamics, labor conflict resolution, and is also a peer support and personal advocate for other whistleblowers.

# Media Training: How to tell your story in the most concise, powerful manner while protecting your rights

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM

#### Panel Participants:

Kathy Cole, Founder, Whistleblower Productions
Frank Vetro, Author, Public Speaker and Radio Host
Mary Ellen Belding, Principal, Structural Remediation Services, Inc.
Dee Ann Divis, Society of Professional Journalists
Michael Carey, Civil Rights and Disability Rights Advocate

#### Description:

A whistleblower's story is often drawn out for many years, very convoluted, and comprised of many layers and moving parts. Compounding the problem is that whistleblowers often suffer from psychological damage that makes it even harder to articulate the tragic tale because they have been silenced, bullied, left unemployed, forced into bankruptcy or suffered other adverse actions at the hands of the powers that be. This panel will focus on how to present your story, protect yourself, and avoid the pitfalls, whether you are telling your neighbor, employer, the media, a filmmaker, and/or the legal system. Whistleblowers need to get their stories packaged for proper submission to law enforcement, lawyers or their families, which is often dragged into this NIGHTMARE. Family members are often not aware of the issues and what is at stake for them when their family member blew the whistle.

"This is an important issue that almost all whistleblowers struggle with. When I interview people on my show they never articulate their story in a clear manner. I always had to clean it up. Whistleblowers are used as pawns in the corruption chess match, but a well-prepared pawn can put a king in check..." This panel is highlighted with a viewing of our new and revised documentary.

**Frank Vetro** is an Italian American residing in eastern Long Island. His family came to the United States so their children could have the education and opportunity they never had. In living out his family's American dream he pursued a career in education. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1995 and began his career teaching biology and chemistry. In 1998 he earned his Master of Arts degree, and from 1998-2000 he compiled 90 additional post graduate credits in educational pedagogy. Frank furthered his education, graduating in 2003 with a Specialist Diploma and certifications as a School Business Administrator and School District Administrator. After reporting potential child abuse in an educational setting, Frank was retaliated against. He was arrested for a crime he didn't commit, thrown in jail, and pilloried in the press. As he was barely clinging

to his career and life, he was subpoenaed to be a witness in a discrimination case against his employing school district. He authored "Standing on Principal" in hopes of spurring change and preventing future injustices. His book garnered national attention and lead to his two radio shows, "Standing on Principal" and "The Frank Vetro Show". He is a founder and managing partner at WLINY radio.

**Kathy Cole** was born in Newark, New Jersey and raised in Bay Shore, New York. She is a fierce advocate for children's safety in schools. As a mother of five, Kathy could not look the other way as she was told after witnessing non-compliance in school gymnasiums that put students' lives in danger. Kathy has waged a one-woman war against the NYS and NYC department of education, simply to have them enforce their own laws. She became very vocal about her whistleblowing and ultimately gathered a group of likeminded, strong willed whistleblowers who saw something wrong with the government agency they worked for and had the audacity to say something about it. Kathy had the vision to do a documentary, so that once and for all, the truth could be told.

Mary Ellen Belding is the former president and owner of Structural Remediation Services, Inc. (SRS) a commercial specialty contractor in Rochester, NY. In her role as a Whistleblower, uncovering substantial fraud in Government Contracting, she was enlisted by Federal & State agencies to expose billions of dollars of public corruption. Today, the ongoing investigations have resulted in multiple indictments and convictions. Mary Ellen continues her activism by exposing the realities of Whistleblower Retaliation.

Dee Ann Divis is the editor for Inside Unmanned Systems magazine, the leading independent publication covering drones and other unmanned technology. She covers Washington as a contributing editor for Inside GNSS, a publication on satellite navigation and its many applications. Before joining the magazine she was assistant managing editor for news at the Washington Examiner's daily paper where she ran the Virginia and business news coverage, edited investigative reports and managed portions of the web site. She led the science and technology coverage for United Press International and spent a year at MIT as a Knight Space Journalism Fellow. She won the Robert D.G. Lewis Watchdog Award from the Society of Professional Journalists DC PRO chapter and is a three-time winner of its Washington Correspondent award. Her editing and reporting have also been recognized by the group Military Reporters and Editors, Folio, the Software & Information Industry Association and the USC Annenberg Institute for Justice and Journalism. She currently serves as vice president of the board for the SPJ DC Prochapter

Michael Carey is a leading Civil Rights and Disability Rights Advocate that has helped initiate, as well as been featured in, numerous investigative news reports with the New York Times, the Associated Press and BuzzFeed News. Tragedy struck the Carey household on February 15, 2007 when their son Jonathan was killed by New York State employed caregivers. Michael and Lisa were catapulted into advocating for protections for people with disabilities and successfully got a new law in place in New York State in Jonathan's name called, Jonathan's Law, which was signed into law in May of 2007. Jonathan's Law finally gives parents and legal guardian's legal access to abuse and neglect reports and findings that were previously withheld. Michael was able to convince the New York Times to do the investigative reporting series titled, "Abused and Used" which exposed much of the extremely dangerous system; this series became a runner up for a Pulitzer Prize. Michael also founded the Jonathan Carey Foundation which is a 501(c)(3) not for profit that advocates for vulnerable children and people with disabilities.

## Fighting Guardianship / Probate Abuse: Are the Alleged Violations Real or Imagined?

Hart Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave., NE Room SH-902 Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 3:00 PM to 3:50 PM

### Panel Participants:

Billie Mintz, Documentary Filmmaker
Terry Williams, Social Scientist and Consultant
Rudolph "Rudy" Acree, Jr., Attorney At Law
Wayne McElrath, Former Director of Investigations, Government Accountability Office

#### Description:

This panel explores the broader policy themes depicted in *The Guardians* Documentary, an award-winning, feature-length film exposing a decades-long criminal operation targeting the elderly, the disabled, their estates and families in Nevada. The film posits the primary, illegal objective aims to convert assets constituting generational and legacy wealth to liquid and investment capital serving as perpetrators' chief source for highly questionable and fraudulent billing schemes. The panel explores the realities of the schemes depicted, extensions into Probate Court where decedents' estates and survivors are targeted in much the same way and the maneuvering between the two courts in ways that will astound even the most seasoned detectives. The illegal objective is merely to intercept and liquidate all targeted assets, essentially billing targets and families for crimes committed against them.

There can be no meaningful resolution until the entirety of the operation is addressed and a larger conversation held before Congress. This is an extended conversation addressing lack of due process that must take place to explore issues in addition to those addressed in *The Guardians* Documentary: <sup>2</sup>

- 1) Due Process tutorial highlighting actual case(s);
- 2) A walk through a probate case featuring nearly identical fraudulent techniques used in the guardianship component of perpetrators' operation.
- 3) Comparison of Targeted Victim to Criminal Defendant;
- 4) An update since the 2010 Government Accountability Office Report entitled: Guardianships: Cases of Financial Exploitation, Neglect, and Abuse of Seniors

Until the entirety of the operation is exposed and placed on the table for law enforcement, Congress and the world to see, piecemeal reform appears doomed to fail, as the perpetrators duck, cover, hide and restrict operations in exposed areas of the scheme, while ratcheting up activities in the other areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This panel is calculated to take place *post*-screening of *The Guardians* documentary.

**Billie Mintz** is an Investigative Journalist, Filmmaker and Producer. Serving two seasons as a National Geographic correspondent for the show Explorer and a long-time advocate for social justice, Billie has dedicated his career to raising public consciousness, inspiring policy change and advocating for those who have no voice. His feature film, *The Guardians*, has been a clarion call for advocating against rampant guardianship abuse in America and the world. As founder of INNOV8R, Mr. Mintz is an award winning filmmaker who believes the power of story to inspire policy change is a driving force in our society. During the panel discussion, Mr. Mintz will discuss the 'Origins' of *The Guardians* Documentary.

**Terry Williams** is an American social scientist, analyst and consultant specializing in legal research relating to elder, family and social phenomena. As a former legal assistant and real estate agent, Ms. Williams discovered a criminal enterprise running straight through the courts of Las Vegas, operating under the guise of legitimate guardianship. Having called the matter to the attention of numerous law enforcement agencies and become a highly sought after journalistic source, Ms. Williams debuts her findings in both *The New Yorker* magazine article entitled, *The Takeover - How the Elderly Lose Their Rights*, as well as, *The Guardians* Documentary - a riveting feature-length film, evidencing a highly sophisticated racketeering operation targeting seniors, the disabled, their estates and families, whose chief purpose is to intercept generational and legacy wealth using the legal system.

**Rudolph "Rudy" Acree**, **Jr.**, **Esq.**, Criminal Defense Attorney/former staff attorney Public Defender Service (PDS)<sup>3</sup>, Washington, D.C. Mr. Acree began his legal career as a staff attorney with the Public Defender Service in 1992. During his tenure, Mr. Acree represented children in juvenile delinquency cases and handled countless misdemeanor and felony cases. He was promoted to the position of PDS Training Director and later served as the Deputy Chief of the Trial Division. Upon leaving PDS, Mr. Acree opened his own law practice where he handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters in the District of Columbia and in other jurisdictions. Mr. Acree is a graduate of Howard University and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Before attending law school, he served in the DC National Guard and the Army National Guard of New Jersey, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant in the US Army.

Wayne A. McElrath is former Director of Investigations within the Forensic Audits and Investigative Service mission team for the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Prior to joining GAO, Mr. McElrath served as Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations with the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General (OIG); Special Agent in Charge with the United States Postal Service, OIG; Senior Special Agent with the United States Customs Service, the forerunner to the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Investigations; and was Special Agent with the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Mr. McElrath holds a Bachelors of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, is a Masters Degree candidate with the United States Naval War College in National Defense and Strategic Studies with an emphasis in Operational Law and is a Harvard Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive Fellow. He is a graduate of the Office of Personnel Management's Leadership for a Democratic Society

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Whistleblower Summit Panel Participation is as Rudolph "Rudy" Acree, criminal defense attorney and *former* staff attorney with Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). Views and positions expressed are not to be construed as those of the PDS.

program and also honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army reserves.

## **SPJ Mixer for Whistleblower & Journalists**

Sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists

—Registration Required—

The National Press Club 529 14th St. NW, 13th floor Washington, DC 20045

Wednesday, July 31, 2019 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Join journalists, whistleblowers and advocates for both groups for an informal gettogether during the 8th Annual Whistleblower Summit & Film Festival, sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, DC Pro Chapter. All Society of Professional Journalists members, as well as all Whistleblower Summit attendees, are invited.

There is no cost to attend. Food and drinks (including non-alcoholic beverages) are buy your own. We will gather on the top floor of the National Press Club in the Press Club building. After introducing ourselves, we will receive a special tour of the National Press Club by longtime Club and SPJ member Kathryn Foxhall. After the tour, we will return to the McClendon Room, where the tour begins and discuss whistleblowers and public information officers. Foxhall, a science journalist and SPJ DC board member, has a particular expertise in PIO transparency issues as they apply to journalists. She will be joined by Dana Gold, Senior Counsel and Director of Education for the Government Accountability Project.

You must register in advance for the July 31, 2019 event, as we must provide your name to the Club in advance so that you be granted admission.

(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whistleblower-summit-film-festival-tickets-59937523747).

## **Awards & Solidarity Dinner**

Hosted by the Justice Integrity Project

-Invitation Only-

The National Press Club 529 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20045

Thursday, August 1, 2019 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

In honor and support of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, the Justice Integrity Project will host the Whistleblower Solidarity Dinner at the National Press Club. This semi-formal dinner is the capstone event of the conference to promote solidarity within the public interest community. There is no cost to attend. Food and drinks (including non-alcoholic beverages) are buy your own. Presentation by Marcel Reid, Pacifica Whistleblower Liaison.

### Films & Motion Pictures:

Impact Award
Best Feature
Best Documentary
Best Short
Best Whistleblower Portrayal
Audience Choice



Universal Declaration (December 10, 1948)

of Human Rights

#### **PREAMBLE**

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

#### Article 1.

## All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

#### Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-selfgoverning or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

#### Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

#### Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

#### Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, **inhuman or degrading treatment** or punishment.

#### Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

#### Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

#### Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

#### Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

#### Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

#### Article 11.

- (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
- (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

#### Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.

Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

#### Article 13.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
- (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

#### Article 14.

- (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
- (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

#### Article 15.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

#### Article 16.

- (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

#### Article 17.

- (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

#### Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

#### Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

#### Article 20.

- (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

#### Article 21.

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be

expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

#### Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

#### Article 23.

- (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

  (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

#### Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

#### Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food,

clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

#### Article 26.

- (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- (2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
- (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

#### Article 27.

- (1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
- (2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic

production of which he is the author.

#### Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

#### Article 29.

- (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
- (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
- (3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

#### Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

## Week In A Glance



	MON JULY 29	TUE JULY 30	WED JULY 31	THU AUG 1
Morning	Hart Senate Building	Dirksen Senate Building	Hart Senate Building [Stewart Mott House]	Library of Congress
10:00— 11:00			Film: Shorts S1 [Medical WBs]	Film: Shorts S2 & S3
11:00— 12:00		National Whistleblower Day Luncheon	Film: Whistleblower [Surviving WBing]	Film Screening: Unforgivable Truth
Lunch 12:00— 1:00	Opening PlenaryProclamation		WBs Media Training [Dying for Dialysis?]	Film: Shorts S4
After- noon 1:00— 2:00	Working with Office of Special Counsel	Stewart Mott House	Film: The Guardians [Resilient Advocate]	Blacks In Government
2:00— 3:00	Blackballing Financial Institutions	Working with Congress		Film Screening: Deceptive Diplomacy
3:00— 4:00	In Defense of Family	No Fear Factor	Guardians Panel	
4:00— 5:00	Is Your Story a Book?	Crisis of Conscience		
5:00— 6:00		Awards Reception Pillar Award		
Evening	Busboys & Poets Film Screenings	Landmark Cinema Film Screenings		
6:00— 8:00	Fear No Gumbo WIF Film Panel	Official Secrets	WB / Journalists MixerNational Press Club	Award / Solidarity DinnerNational Press Club
8:00— 10:00	The Kids We Lose	The Great Hack	<b>S1</b> : In Perspective, With My Own Two Hands, Tank Man	S2: ViZA, Bordered S3: Hoan Alone, Lost Treasure S4: Voice For The Voiceless







